

Saudi envoys to explain Mecca events

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia launched a diplomatic drive on Sunday aimed at countering Iranian accusations that it was responsible for violence in the Holy City of Mecca in which hundreds of pilgrims were killed. Saudi envoys called on leaders in Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar and North Yemen to explain what happened. Saudi officials said. Saudi officials also due to visit other Arab and Islamic countries. An official Saudi statement on Saturday repeated accusations that Saudi security forces opened fire on Iranian pilgrims outside Mecca's Grand Mosque on July 31. It says Iranian holding an illegal demonstration attacked security forces and other pilgrims and more than 400 people died, mostly trampled underfoot, in the ensuing confusion. Saudi Arabia said last week the kingdom would send messages to leaders of Arab and Islamic states on the causes of the violence. It has rallied the support of most Arab states but seeks full Islamic backing. Its United States ambassador, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, said in Washington that 44 Muslim heads of state contacted by King Fahd had condemned the Iranian actions in Mecca.

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King concedes Chamoun family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent a cable to Dani Chamoun expressing condolences over the death of his father, former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun. In his cable, the King asked Mr. Chamoun, the second son of the former president who died on Friday, to convey his sympathy to the family of the late leader (Related story on page 2).

Iraq says 3 killed by Iranian artillery

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday three civilians were killed and five wounded when long-range Iranian artillery shelled the northeastern town of Qala Diza. A high command communiqué also said the Iranians shelled the southern city of Basra, damaging houses and other property. Iran claimed on Wednesday its forces had seized strategic heights in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan near Qala Diza and Dukkan Dam and brought the towns within range of their artillery. The Iraqi communiqué made no mention of any major ground fighting but said Iraqi warplanes and helicopter gunships flew 112 combat missions on Sunday.

TASS assails Reagan's call

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's "provocative" suggestion that the Kremlin tear down the Berlin Wall "can only be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of an independent country," TASS said Sunday. The official news agency was responding to Mr. Reagan's remarks in his weekly radio broadcast Saturday. Mr. Reagan said Mikhail S. Gorbachev could truly demonstrate "glasnost," the Soviet leader's policy of openness on selected topics, by dismantling the Berlin Wall and clearing the way for movement between East and West.

New U.S. envoy arrives in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Hume A. Horan, the new U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, arrived this weekend, 10 years after serving as deputy chief of mission in the kingdom. The U.S. embassy reported Sunday, Mr. Horan, 53, must present his credentials to King Fahd before officially assuming the post of ambassador. He replaces Walter Leon Cutler, who has already left the kingdom. A graduate of Harvard, Mr. Horan is a career diplomat, and an Arabist who has served in several Arab and Muslim capitals.

U.S. fleet in Egypt for war games

ALEXANDRIA (R) — The U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga and three other warships arrived on Sunday for joint land, air and sea maneuvers in Egypt. American officials in Washington said about 9,000 U.S. troops and a similar number of Egyptians were expected to take part in the war games, codenamed Bright Star 87, which began on Aug. 15. The other U.S. warships taking part are the frigates Bensen and Conolly and the cruiser Virginia.

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Israeli gunships attack South Lebanese village

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships on Sunday attacked a village in southern Lebanon inflicting an unknown number of casualties, according to reports reaching here from the south.

Local radio stations said the 45-minute air raid started at 1500 GMT. Several Israeli gunships bombed residential houses on the edges of Soultaniye, one kilometre north of Tibnin and about 17 kilometres north of the Israeli border, the radios added. The radios said Israeli helicopter gunships drew anti-aircraft fire from the Shi'ite Amal militia in the area.

In Tel Aviv, an army spokesman claimed Israeli helicopter gunships attacked the headquarters of guerrilla groups connected with the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) in

South Lebanon.

The spokesman said the helicopters returned safely to base after the attack and described the target as "a structure used as the headquarters of groups that cooperated with Hizbollah against Israeli and SLA (South Lebanon Army) soldiers in Lebanon."

It was Israel's 19th air raid on Lebanese territory this year. Thirteen people were wounded in the previous air raid on Ammiq in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

So far Israeli air raids have killed 54 people and wounded at least 219.

About one hour before Sun-

day's attack, guerrillas in Lebanon fired a Soviet-designed Katyusha rocket into northern Israel, an Israeli army spokesman said. He said there were no reports of injuries or damage and declined to say where the rocket fell.

Military censors apparently delayed publication of Sunday's Katyusha attacks until the raid on Lebanon was over.

The spokesman said several other Katyusha rockets fired at the same time landed in southern Lebanon, beyond Israel's self-styled "security zone."

Israel established the zone, a 10-to-15-kilometre wide strip of land north of the Lebanese border, when it withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985 following a three-year occupation.

The "security zone" is patrolled by Israeli troops and the SLA militia.

U.S.-guarded flotilla makes silent voyage towards Kuwait

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Three Kuwaiti tankers and their U.S. warship escorts — running with lights out and radios silent — sailed Sunday into northern Gulf waters where numerous ships have been attacked or suffered damage from floating mines.

As darkness fell over the Gulf, the six-ship convoy began the final and perhaps most precarious leg of its 880 kilometre voyage that was due to end at Kuwait's main offshore oil terminal early Monday.

Shipping sources said the convoy, not required to use a deep channel, would steer well clear of tiny Farsi Island, which Iran has used as a base for assaults by speedboat-borne commandos against Gulf shipping, and is considered a dangerous area for mines. U.S. naval officers say. One of the tankers in the convoy was attacked by Iranian planes near the island in 1984.

"The ships are blacked out and maintaining radio silence," reported a shipping source, who has kept touch with communications

monitors since the group passed through the Strait of Hormuz, the entrance to the Gulf, on Saturday.

In an interview broadcast by Tehran Radio and monitored in London and Cyprus, Iran's Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said the vital oil waterway would remain "full of mines" as long as Western countries maintained a military presence.

The United States, France, Britain, and the Soviet Union all have naval units in or just outside the Gulf.

"As long as the superpowers intend to be present there and as long as they intend to act against countries of the region, the Persian Gulf will remain full of mines and continue to be a dangerous region for ships," Mr. Musavi said.

Shipping sources told Reuters that helicopters flying ahead of the six-ship convoy were dragging sonar devices through the water to try to detect any mines, now regarded as the main hazard on the last stage of the 880-kilometre

voyage.

The sources said the convoy had passed the half-way point up the Gulf and was last sighted north of Bahrain nearing the area where the first refuelled tanker Bridgeton last month hit a mine suspected of being laid by Iran.

Western military sources said there had been no sign of any mines or of the Iranian speedboats which Tehran said shadowed the first convoy.

The sources said the mine-hunting helicopters were operating from the warships in the convoy and gave far more protection than the first convoy received.

The Bridgeton's brush with a mine embarrassed the Americans because they were not adequately prepared to cope with the threat of mines.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Sunday that U.S. forces have destroyed mines near Kuwait as part of the American mission to keep waterways open and protect ships from Iranian attacks.

U.S. shuns publicity for its second Gulf convoy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States shunned its second convoy of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers into the Gulf on Sunday giving away little of its plans and shunning the publicity that accompanied its first exercise in Gulf protection.

The convoy of three Kuwaiti tankers and three U.S. warships, which unlike the first has no journalists with it, left without warning early Saturday and headed cautiously on Sunday up the Gulf on its 880-kilometre voyage to Kuwait.

The Defence Department, which told reporters that the convoy would not leave for at least a week, refused to say whether the surprise departure was a change of plan or a deliberate attempt to mislead Iran.

It also declined to discuss how it was coping with sea mines of the kind which holed the reflagged supertanker Bridgeton on the first run, saying only that its nine-ship task force in the Gulf had minesweeping capabilities.

Kuwait, which supports Iraq in its war with Iran, asked the United States to protect its shipping after a string of Iranian attacks. The 80,000-tonne product carriers Sea Isle City and Ocean City and the 46,000-tonne liquid petroleum tanker Gas King left Khor Fakkan in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday with the U.S. frigates Crommelin and Jarret and the destroyer Kidd protecting them.

The convoy could reach Kuwait late Sunday or early Monday.

Rafsanjani: Iran wants to keep Hormuz open

BONN (Agencies) — Iran will close the Strait of Hormuz if its ships are prevented from using the waterway, a leading West German newspaper quoted Tehran's parliamentary speaker as saying Sunday.

But Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also said Iran wanted to keep the waterway open as long as its ships could pass through the strait unhindered, according to the Bonn-based Die Welt newspaper.

"Of course we are interested in keeping the Strait of Hormuz open," Die Welt quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

"Our position is simple: if we are unable to use the Persian Gulf for exporting our oil, then why should we not simply close the strait. We say either the strait

should be open to everyone or to no-one," he was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The interview is to appear in Die Welt's Monday editions. Excerpts were telexed to Bonn-based news organisations in advance Sunday.

Die Welt did not say where the interview took place.

Iran has deployed Chinese-made Silkworm missiles along its shores on the 40-kilometre-wide Strait of Hormuz. These missiles have a range of 80 kilometres and could target any vessel passing through the strait. Another possibility suggested by military experts is that Iran could plant seamines in the waterway and hinder passage of ships.

(Continued on page 3)

Prince Faisal weds Alia Tabaa today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Hussein, the second son of His Majesty the King, and Miss Alia Tawfiq Sabri Tabaa will get married today, a Royal Decree issued on Sunday said. The decree said the Royal Court seizes the opportunity to send heartfelt felicitations to Prince Faisal and Miss Tabaa, His Majesty the King and the people of Jordan.

Prince Faisal, 24, and Miss Tabaa, 23, were engaged on Jan. 30. The Prince graduated from a British Royal Air Force Academy in July bagging five of seven awards earmarked for excellent students. The Jordan Times takes this occasion to wish Prince Faisal and Miss Tabaa a most happy wedded life.



Israeli soldier wounded in Nablus attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier was injured Sunday when unidentified men hurled a fire bomb at his vehicle and set it ablaze in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, reports said.

Troops immediately clamped a curfew on part of the town to search for the attackers. The soldier was treated for burns, the sources said.

It was the second time in four days that Israelis have been hurt in firebomb attacks in the West Bank.

On Thursday an Israeli woman settler was seriously burned in an attack near the West Bank town of Qalqilya.

The Israeli army on Sunday began setting up look-out points to improve its ability to patrol the road between Qalqilya and the nearby Jewish settlement of Alfei Menashe.

Guerrillas also shot dead an Israeli army lieutenant in the occupied Gaza Strip last week. In response, troops imposed a curfew on the area, closed Gaza Port and barred local residents from travelling to their jobs in Israel for three days.

An army spokesman said Sunday's attack occurred on a main street in the centre of Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank. The army immediately imposed a curfew on central Nablus, he said.

Sunday's attack was also the third violent incident in Nablus within a week. Last Wednesday, Israeli border police shot and wounded a Palestinian protester during a violent demonstration against the Israeli occupation near Nablus' municipal building.

A day later, police shot and wounded two Palestinians as they threw stones and burned tires in a second demonstration in Nablus.

Shultz aide in Israel on mission said aimed at pushing for peace conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior aide to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has arrived in Israel to try to persuade Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to accept an international Middle East peace conference. U.S. officials said Sunday.

Charles Hill, executive assistant to Mr. Shultz, arrived Saturday night for talks with Mr. Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who are deeply divided over the issue. Israeli and U.S. officials said.

Mr. Shamir rejects efforts by Mr. Peres, Europe and most Arab countries to convene a U.N.-sponsored conference. Until recently, Washington was cool to the idea of a conference attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — including the Soviet Union — but has changed its view at the urging of Mr. Peres, Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Shultz last week said he

Cabinet approves microwave link

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Sunday ratified a draft agreement to establish a regional microwave link between Jordan and Egypt via the Gulf of Aqaba. The Cabinet, during an ordinary session at the Prime Ministry, also approved Jordan's participation in the eighth meeting of the Council of Arab Organisation for Industrial Development, scheduled to convene in Algiers in November. Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher was named to head the Jordanian delegation to the meetings. The microwave link project, which was endorsed by the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee earlier this year, will provide Jordan with microwave linking facilities with communications grids in the Mediterranean region, South East Asia and Europe. Sunday's Cabinet meeting also approved a dual tax-exemption agreement with Pakistan on the national carriers revenues in the two countries. A project to construct a spinoff railway track of 1,200 metres to connect the wheat silos in Jwailah with the Al Hijaz railway was also endorsed during the meeting. The Cabinet also approved Jordan's participation in the seventh Arab camp for the blind which will be held in Sharjah in September.



Palestinian student admits killing Zafer Al Masri

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Television broadcast an interview on Sunday with a jailed Palestinian student it said had admitted killing an Arab mayor last year in the occupied West Bank.

The television's Arabic-language service identified the prisoner as Muaid Samad, 25, who said he shot Zafer Al Masri, mayor of Nablus, in March 1986, on orders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (P.F.P.).

"I shot Al Masri... I'm not sorry about the shooting," Samad said during the interview. He said he killed Mr. Masri for symbolising efforts to weaken the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.).

Mr. Masri accepted the appointment three months before his murder because he said the city, the West Bank's largest, was neglected for three years while Israel ran its affairs. He said his appointment had the support of Jordan and the P.L.O.

The Israeli army said Samad was part of a P.F.P. squad from the Nablus area captured in June for carrying out six murders or attempted murders during the last two years. Military prosecutors are preparing indictments against the squad.

After training in Syria, Samad said he followed Mr. Masri several days before shooting him three times on the steps of the Nablus city hall. Samad said he escaped in a car to Al Najah University near Nablus where he was a student of literature.

Samad said his cause had benefited because would-be Palestinian candidates for mayors of other West Bank towns withdrew as a result.

Another guerrilla identified by the television as 31-year-old Ahmad Hanani admitted killing an Israeli army canteen worker in Nablus in 1985 and driving Samad's getaway car after the murder of Mr. Masri.

Israel cuts franchise of Jerusalem electricity company

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's cabinet on Sunday endorsed a plan to prevent the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECO), the largest Palestinian firm in the occupied territories, from supplying electricity to Jews.

The plan would give the firm a 10-year concession but turn over to Israel the supply of electricity to army bases and Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Jewish "neighbourhoods" of Arab Jerusalem. Israeli officials said.

The company has supplied electricity to both areas since Ottoman Turkish rule over Palestine and does not want to concede any part of its franchise when its 60-year concession ends this year.

Israeli officials say they do not want a Palestinian firm to control the flow of electricity in time of war to Jews who moved into the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem after the areas were occupied by Israel in 1967.

Israel appears anxious to avoid any international outcry by taking over the debt-ridden company, which currently supplies 65,000 Arabs and 35,000 Jews with electricity.

Palestinians have said Israel has prevented the firm from buying new equipment and forced it to purchase from Israel 90 per cent of the electricity it distributes.

Israeli officials blame "inefficiency" and overstaffing at the company, which employs 450 people, for the firm's \$20 million debt to Israel's electric company and believe the firm will eventually be forced to accept the plan, which must be approved by parliament.

Black miners poised for massive strike in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The National Union of Mine-workers (NUM) said 200,000 black miners were to abandon 46 gold and coal mines Sunday night in South Africa's biggest legal strike ever.

The nation's largest union has not restricted its strike call to the 28 gold and 18 coal mines where it says 95.77 of its 261,901 paid-up members voted to strike. It also has called for strikes at gold and coal mines where it is not recognised and estimates 300,000 miners could be off the job by mid-week.

Union officials at 12 additional mines where the union has declared a dispute have been instructed to begin strike ballots Monday. Those mines produce platinum, chrome, uranium and diamonds, and include the giant De Beers diamond conglomerate.

Cyril Ramaphosa, general-secretary of the NUM, told his members to begin evacuating the mine dormitories Monday morning to reduce violence. The move also would make the strike easier to enforce because the miners could not be induced to work.

The 700,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) warned Saturday that government interference with the strike could spur sympathy walkouts in other industries. Referring to a 1984 strike in which 10 miners were killed, the congress warned that if any miner dies in this strike, every congress affiliate would "almost certainly" walk out, affecting all major industries.

The chamber of mines, representing the top six mining houses, estimates the union has only 170,000 members out of a black mining work force of 600,000.

The chamber says many miners are happy with the 15 to 23.4 per cent wage increases implemented as of July 1, after a deadlock over the union's demand for 30 per cent across-the-board increases.

"The chamber will get a very rude shock. We will see on Monday morning," Mr. Ramaphosa said. "When our members are on strike, the whole industry stops."

He has not explained how the union will transport thousands of its members to their homes, in distant rural areas, or how they will be fed.

Some mines have stockpiled in anticipation of the strike. A short-term shutdown actually might boost the economy because it would hike the price of gold.

When 325,000 black miners staged a one-day, illegal walkout

last Oct. 1 to protest the deaths of 177 men in the nation's worst gold-mining accident, the mines lost about 8 million rand (then \$3.6 million), according to the labour monitoring group at the University of the Witwatersrand.

The mineworkers union, whose 1984 walkout was the country's first legal strike by blacks, says black miners are paid an average 345 rand (\$172) a month, one-sixth the average white miner's wage. It also says that blacks, who must work as migrants and see their families only once a year, have an average annual leave of 14 to 18 days, compared with 35 days for whites, who live with their families near the mines.

The union also says fatality rates for blacks are higher than for whites, yet only white workers receive danger pay.

Chad claims capture of Aouzou town from Libya

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad says its troops have recaptured the town of Aouzou from Libya, breaking Tripoli's 14-year grip on a disputed desert region along the border between the two countries.

A military statement read on state-run N'Djamena Radio Saturday night said government forces retook the remote desert town after blunting a Libyan advance on Bardai, some 70 kilometres south of Aouzou.

"The barbaric troops of Tripoli are at this very moment suffering total defeat on Chadian soil," the statement added.

The announcement brought hundreds of cheering people onto the streets of the capital of N'Djamena to celebrate what the radio called the "liberation of the Aouzou town of martyrs."

Aouzou is the administrative capital of the so-called Aouzou Strip, a 110,000-square kilometre region annexed by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi in 1973.

The strip was the last part of northern Chad still controlled by Libyan forces, who were driven from their other military strongholds in the central African country after a string of battles in January and March.

Its recapture, if confirmed, would mark a humiliating end of Libya's long involvement in Chad. Both Chad and Libya claim the Aouzou Strip as an integral part of their territories.

It was not immediately clear, however, whether forces loyal to Chadian President Hissene Habre had also captured a key Libyan air-base located north of Aouzou town.

The installation, whose hard surface landing strip military maps show straddling the Chad-Libya border, is Libya's last remaining stronghold in northern Chad.

Western military experts say the base is defended by several thousand Libyan troops and would have to be taken before Chad could claim to thoroughly control the Aouzou Strip.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry said it could not confirm the Chadian claim of victory at Aouzou.

France has some 1,200 men in its former African colony and has provided extensive logistical aid to the Chadian army, playing a crucial support role in its steady northwards drive over the past eight months.

Mr. Habre, appealing to France not to scale down its military involvement in its former

colony, last month said Libya had massed around 10,000 troops in the Aouzou region.

The Chad president has repeatedly vowed to retake the whole of the Aouzou area, brushing aside French advice that control of the region should be decided by diplomacy or arbitration.

In its announcement Saturday night, N'Djamena Radio said Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT) had captured Aouzou town after a clash with Libyan troops moving towards Chadian positions near Bardai.

It said a Libyan column had started advancing early Saturday morning on Bardai, an oasis town in the northern foothills of the rugged Tibesti Mountain range.

After repulsing the advance, Chadian troops then moved to take Aouzou, the radio said.

The reported Chadian victory came only two days after the N'Djamena government said it was putting its armed forces on alert because it feared a new outbreak of fighting.

It said Libya had been massing troops in both the Aouzou region and along the country's eastern border with Sudan.

A statement issued after an emergency cabinet meeting in N'Djamena on Thursday said the danger of a Libyan attack was imminent.

embarrassing defeat of its candidate.

The latest joint in Umma-DUP relations followed public bickering between the two parties which, say Western diplomats, stems largely from their sheer size.

"It's like American Democrats and Republicans in one government. No one government can hold them both," one said.

Central to their discord is the issue of relations with Egypt, the northern neighbour which for centuries has maintained close ties with Sudan, mainly because of its control over the middle reaches of the River Nile.

DUP favours special ties with Egypt with an eye to eventual union. Mr. Mahdi's Umma emphasises cordial ties with all of Sudan's eight neighbours, including Libya.

He meant the violence which cost more than 5,000 lives in the late 1970s when Mr. Ecevit and Mr. Demirel held office, and which prompted the military takeover. Rather than say so, he simply urged people to use their votes responsibly.

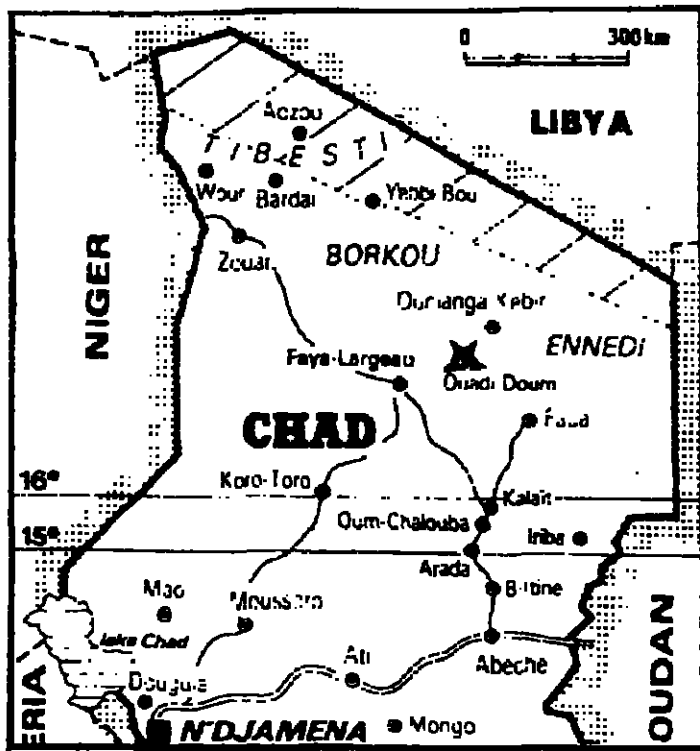
Weeks after Vanunu vanished from his London hotel, Israel announced it was holding him on spy charges. It did not disclose how he was brought back, but said no British law was broken.

Vanunu, in a message written on the palm of his hand, told reporters on his way to a closed court hearing last December that he was abducted by Israeli agents in Rome.

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Before the story was published on Oct. 5, a Mossad agent calling herself "Cindy" befriended Vanunu in London and, promising him sex, persuaded him to accompany her on a flight to Italy, the paper said.

In Rome, she took him to a flat in a cheap apartment block where he was seized and held down by two men while she injected him with an anaesthetic, it said, adding that he was later chained and smuggled out of Italy.



Turkish politicians step up referendum campaign

ANKARA (R) — With voting only four weeks away, Turkish politicians have stepped up campaigning for a referendum on whether banned leaders should be allowed back into politics.

The bans, a legacy of the 1980-83 military rule, are questioned by human rights watchdogs abroad. In Turkey they are central to an intense debate on the nature of democracy.

Turks are to vote on Sept. 6 on whether to lift a constitutional provision banning from party politics dozens of politicians active when the military took over to halt a wave of violence and social disorder.

They included former prime ministers Bulent Ecevit and Suleyman Demirel, both banned from having links with political parties for 10 years until 1992 but each is the leader-in-waiting of an existing party.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal took advertising space in Hurriyet, the country's top-selling paper, to make a thinly-disguised plea for 'no' votes. He reminded readers that the 1982 constitution had been passed by a 92 per cent majority.

All political activity was suspended at the time, so there was no campaigning against it.

"Why did the Turkish people, with such a crushing majority, approve a new constitution keeping these individuals out of politics? I think you all know why," Mr. Ozal wrote.

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U.S., Israel reportedly planned hostage rescue

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Israel planned a joint mission in 1985 to rescue American hostages in Beirut, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

Citing informed sources and notes of meetings, the newspaper said a U.S.-Israeli team was sent to Beirut but did not carry out the mission because it could not find the hostages.

The team set out on its mission because talks with Iran, believed to be behind the hostage-taking, were stalemated, despite the release of Rev. Weir, the article said.

U.S. officials had hoped other, and possibly all, Americans would be freed through the sale of arms to Iran.

Another rescue mission was considered in June last year, after former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North delivered Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Iran and returned without any American hostages.

According to the Post, President Reagan approved a military plan to rescue the hostages on June 6 last year.

In July, Father Lawrence Jenko was released and in November David Jacobson was freed just before a U.S. arms-for-hostages deal was disclosed by a Beirut magazine. Since then, six more Americans have been taken hostage in Beirut.

While the speeches of Mr. Ozal and Mr. Inonu are broadcast by state radio and television, Mr. Demirel and Mr. Ecevit are ignored by the network since they have no official standing.

"You may see on the news tonight an item about migrating birds but you will not see yourselves," Mr. Demirel told a mass rally.

With the vast majority of people getting their news from the broadcast media, this could turn out to be a big factor working for a 'no' vote.

Falangists bid farewell to Chamoun

BEIRUT (R) — A 21-gun salute crashed out across the Lebanese capital Sunday as thousands of Falangists, many in tears, made an emotional farewell to Finance Minister and former President Camille Chamoun.

One of the few Lebanese politicians to die of natural causes in the 12-year-old civil war, 87-year-old Chamoun suffered a fatal heart attack in hospital two days ago.

In Christian east Beirut martial music blared and marksmen parolled rooftops as Mr. Chamoun's coffin was lifted onto a gun-carriage for the 40 kilometre journey to the family village in Druze-held mountains to the south east.

Earlier, black clad patriarchy and bishops officiated at a requiem mass in the city's eastern sector. No incidents were reported, save for a brief quarrel when soldiers stopped one politician's body-guard from taking his pistol into the church.

Mr. Chamoun was revered by supporters for his staunch defence of Falangist prerogatives and his outspoken opposition to Syrian and Palestinian influence in the country.

But his pro-Western sympathies — expressed at a time when Arab nationalism and resurgent Islam were in full flood — earned him the hostility of many Muslims and leftists.

As President Amin Gemayel, Papal Nuncio Luciano Angeloni and the ambassadors of a score of countries led the 5,000-strong procession through the streets, the ever-superstitious Lebanese discussed Mr. Chamoun's death in hushed tones.

Seven was a special number. One woman whispered to another in the sombre crowd of mourners, many of them with handkerchiefs shielding their heads from searing summer sunshine.

Mr. Chamoun had died seven months after the last of four assassination attempts in which seven people had died, the woman added. Her companions nodded in agreement.

"He was a statesman of a lofty stature," Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir told worshippers packing the church. "Rest in peace, you strong and wise struggle."

Later an army jeep pulled the coffin on its gun-carriage out of the city towards Mr. Chamoun's mountain village of Deir Al Qamar for burial. The area is held by Druze fighters led by one of Mr. Chamoun's fellow cabinet ministers, Walid Junblatt.

"I feel sad and distressed because the loss (Chamoun's death) is irreparable," said a 40-year-old shopkeeper as the funeral cortege passed by.

Across the green line divide in mainly Muslim west Beirut, many people watched the ceremonies on television.

"Regardless of his opposition to us, we have lost a stabiliser in Chamoun," said Muslim technician Abed Zaffar. "He knew where to push and where to pull. He was a professional, not an amateur."

Tunisia identifies militants wanted for hotel blasts

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia Sunday published photographs of two Islamic fundamentalist militants who it said were wanted in connection with bombings at four hotels last week in which 12 British and Italian tourists and a Tunisian were injured.

A statement accompanying the photographs published by all Tunisian newspapers said the two were members of the Islamic tendency movement, an opposition political party founded in 1981 which campaigns for a return to strict Islamic religious observance.

The movement went underground early this year after an official crackdown on its members.

The statement said the two men's "implication in criminal acts has been proved."

It added that members of a "terrorist network" responsible for the bombings had been arrested but did not identify them or say how many there were.

Tunisian Interior Minister Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali was quoted Saturday by the official Tunisian News Agency TAP as saying a number of extremists had been detained in connection with the hotel bombings.

The weekly Al Ilan said a lawyer arrested last Tuesday, movement militant Hedi Zemzem, was also a member of the "terrorist network."

The daily La Presse said a communiqué issued by the movement in Paris last week condemning the hotel bombings was written by Habib Mokni, who the newspaper said was associated with an employee at the Iranian embassy in Paris.

The paper said Mokni was "a fundamentalist under the orders of Vahid Gerdji" an Iranian embassy interpreter who was the "linchpin of Khomeinist networks in Francophone countries."

Gerdji took refuge in the Iranian embassy when a French magistrate issued a warrant to question him in connection with bombings in Paris last September.

Iranian envoy to Beirut threatens U.S. with attacks

BEIRUT (R) — The Iranian ambassador to Lebanon has threatened to transfer terrorism to American cities if the United States commits "any foolish deed" against Iran.

"We say that in the case of any foolish deed by the United States against us... we will transfer terrorism that is being practised against us to the streets of Washington and the galleries of the White House," Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian said.

He was talking Saturday to a rally of pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) in the mainly Shi'ite southern suburbs of Beirut, marking the seventh day of mourning for Iranian rioters who died in Mecca last week. The text of his speech was published in Sunday's newspapers.

Saudi Arabia said 402 pilgrims, 275 of them Iranian, died in riots started by Iranian demonstrators on July 31. It has denied Iranian charges that it was responsible and that Saudi forces gunned down the Iranian victims.

Pro-Iranian Hizbollah clerics, who took part in the rally vowed to "liberate" Mecca and to topple the leaders of Saudi Arabia.

New crisis strains Sudan's coalition

KHARTOUM (R) — Relations between Sudan's ruling coalition partners have come under severe strain with the senior group taking a Supreme Council seat from the junior.

Umma, senior partner in the 15-month-old government, defied the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Friday when it won lawyer Mirghani Al Nasri a Supreme Council seat previously held by the DUP.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi told a hastily-summoned news conference that he had tried in vain to persuade the DUP to drop their nominee for the seat, Ahmad Al Sayed Hamad. Umma says he worked closely with deposed president Jaafar Numeiri.

Numeiri was ousted after 16 years in power in an April 1985 coup. The 15-month old Mahdi coalition links two of Sudan's oldest and most influential political groups, who took turns in office during spells of democratic rule in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mr. Nasri's election, which followed the resignation of Mohammed Abdullah Yassin in June, has left the DUP with only Supreme Council President Ahmad Ali Mirghani.

The other three on the council, a collective and largely ceremonial presidency, are Umma's Idris Al Bana, Ali Hassan Tajeddin and southern Sudanese politician Padios Lokik.

The deputy prime minister and interior minister, DUP Secretary General Sidahmed Al Hussein, described the council vote as "a surprise and a turning point" for the coalition.

Mr. Mahdi, who is also Umma leader, sought to play down the impact of Mr. Nasri's election but he blamed the DUP for the embarrassing defeat of its candidate.

The latest joint in Umma-DUP relations followed public bickering between the two parties which, say Western diplomats, stems largely from their sheer size.

"It's like American Democrats and Republicans in one government. No one government can hold them both," one said.

Central to their discord is the issue of relations with Egypt, the northern neighbour which for centuries has maintained close ties with Sudan, mainly because of its control over the middle reaches of the River Nile.

DUP favours special ties with Egypt with an eye to eventual union. Mr. Mahdi's Umma emphasises cordial ties with all of Sudan's eight neighbours, including Libya.

He meant the violence which cost more than 5,000 lives in the late 1970s when Mr. Ecevit and Mr. Demirel held office, and which prompted the military takeover. Rather than say so, he simply urged people to use their votes responsibly.

Weeks after Vanunu vanished from his London hotel, Israel announced it was holding him on spy charges. It did not disclose how he was brought back, but said no British law was broken.

Vanunu, in a message written on the palm of his hand, told reporters on his way to a closed court hearing last December that he was abducted by Israeli agents in Rome.

last September the Jewish state was producing nuclear weapons on a large scale.

Before the story was published on Oct. 5, a Mossad agent calling herself "Cindy" befriended Vanunu in London and, promising him sex, persuaded him to accompany her on a flight to Italy, the paper said.

In Rome, she took him to a flat in a cheap apartment block where he was seized and held down by two men while she injected him with an anaesthetic, it said, adding that he was later chained and smuggled out of Italy.

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U.K. paper describes abduction of Vanunu

LONDON (R) — Alleged Israeli nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu was lured to Rome and abducted by Israeli secret agents last autumn after he had told his story to the London Sunday Times, the newspaper said.

The paper said it had obtained new evidence showing that Mossad, the Israeli secret service, kidnapped Vanunu and brought him back to Israel where he is facing trial on charges of espionage and treason later this month.

Vanunu, a former technician at Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear plant, told the Sunday Times

last September the Jewish state was producing nuclear weapons on a large scale.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

FEATURE FILM

"International Velvet" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

VIDEO

"Le Cameroun" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6610267

American Centre. Tel. 644371

Spanish Cultural Centre. Tel. 620409

French Cultural Centre. Tel. 637009

Goethe Institute. Tel. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre. Tel. 642303

Turkish Cultural Centre. Tel. 639777

Haya Arts Centre. Tel. 661995

Husseini Youth City. Tel. 6671816

Y.W.C.A. Tel. 642521

Amman Municipal Library. Tel. 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library. Tel. 843553

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash 14th to 18th centuries. The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Mount Lebanon. Jabbal Lubweidh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:15 Cairo (RJ)

10:15 Athens (RJ)

10:30 Damascus (RJ)

10:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

10:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)

10:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)

10:40 Athens (RJ)

10:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

10:40 Bucharest (RJ)

10:40 Bangkok (RJ)

10:55 Baghdad (RJ)

11:00 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)

11:00 Baghdad (AF)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

10:20 Sana'a (LH)

12:00 Baghdad (IA)

12:30 Cairo (MS)

Heat relief in sight

AMMAN (Petra) — The scorching heat wave that affected the Kingdom over the past few days has started to recede. The temperatures are expected to drop gradually, the meteorology department said Sunday.

The department said it expected a further drop in temperature on Monday due to a mild air front moving from north and central Europe to the eastern Mediterranean coast.

The maximum temperature in degrees Celsius registered Sunday in Amman and other capitals in the region were: Amman 37, Aqaba 42, Damascus 41, Ankara 31, Athens 36, Kuwait 42, Riyadh 44 and Cairo 46.

Cost of living index drops 1.3% in June

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cost of living index dropped 1.3 per cent in June from the previous month's index, according to a statistical bulletin in the Department of Statistics.

The bulletin said that the drop is due to decline in the price of food which dropped an average 3.3 per cent and housing which dropped 7 per cent. The price of clothes and shoes rose 0.4 per cent in June.

According to the bulletin, the cost of living index in Jordan during the past six months of 1987 dropped 0.3 per cent in comparison to the same period of 1986.

Assad defends recent ruling on degree equivalence

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad defended Sunday the Council of Higher Education's (CHE) ruling that people seeking degree equivalence in Jordan for degrees acquired abroad must have scored a certain average on their tawjihi examinations, taken at the end of secondary school education.

The minister said that the move was aimed at maintaining the standards of education in Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The CHE's decision, taken last week, said that degrees received at foreign universities would be recognised in Jordan only if the person had received the necessary tawjihi score before they began university studies.

In an interview published in the press last Monday, Dr. Assad said that the CHE will endorse medical degrees obtained abroad only if the students had earlier obtained at least an average of 85 per cent on the tawjihi examination at the end of their secondary school education. Engineering degrees will be endorsed only if students obtained at least 80 per cent on tawjihi, and degrees in other subjects only if students obtained at 65 per cent average.

The minister said that this step had to be taken in order to give equal chance for students studying here and those continuing their higher education abroad. He pointed to the fact that no Jordanian university admits students if they do not have the minimum average required in the tawjihi exam.

Speaking during a press conference held Sunday at the ministry, Dr. Assad said that the number of students who obtained an average of above 65 in this year's tawjihi examinations was 19,387, of which 2,000 will be allowed to study medicine, and 3,000 each will be allowed to study engineering and pharmacology.

Furthermore, a total of 4,655 students obtained an average of between 60 and 65.

The minister also announced that community college graduates will be allowed to pursue their university education at Jordanian universities as of this year, if they obtain a minimum average of 75 on their comprehensive exams at the end of their study.



Her Majesty Queen Noor gives a present to one of the children of the Home for Orphaned Children Sunday.

Queen tours Islamic cultural society

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited the Hamzah Ibn Abdul Muttalib Islamic Cultural Society in Marka Sunday, where she was received upon arrival by the society's president and chairman of the board, Mr. Kamel Al Sharif, and mayor of Amman, Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh.

At the society's health centre, Her Majesty inspected the dental clinic, the laboratory, dispensary and treatment rooms. Members of the local community receive medical treatment at this centre for a nominal fee. Some 45 to 50 patients frequent the centre daily.

Her Majesty then visited the Home for Orphaned Girls where she was received by members of the society's board of administration and residents of the home, which was established in 1986 and houses 21 girls aged between six and 12 years. Her Majesty toured the building's dormitories, dining facilities, recreation and reading rooms.

Accompanied by members of

Lack of heart donors keeps 100 waiting for transplants

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Alia Heart Institute (QAHI) has a list of nearly 100 persons with serious heart diseases awaiting heart transplant operations, according to Dr. Husam Nusheiwat, member of a team of heart transplant surgeons.

"So far, we have performed seven heart transplant operations thanks to donors but at least 100 other patients are dying because there are not enough heart donors," Dr. Nusheiwat said.

In the previous heart transplant cases, relatives of deceased have agreed to allow the QAHI to use the hearts to save patients, and also kidneys to save those suffering from kidney diseases, he noted.

Dr. Nusheiwat said that only two families of potential donors, approached by QAHI, have turned down the request to use their deceased sons' hearts.

A donated heart could be preserved in good condition up to four hours after a person's death. The earlier the operation is per-

formed, the better the chance of success. Dr. Nusheiwat pointed out. He said that it is preferable to have donors under age 35. The younger the recipient, the more chance he has for living, the doctor said.

However, he said, there have been a 67-year-old patient and a one-year-old child who have received new hearts. Apart from the donated heart the QAHI has to ensure that other requirements are met like matching blood type to the recipient and receiving the patient's family's approval for the operation, according to Dr. Nusheiwat.

All the seven heart transplant operations performed at the QAHI were successful. The one death 10 months after the opera-

tion was due to his failure to take prescribed medicine regularly, something which he attributed to family disputes. He said the patient had lived a normal life; he had married and went to work. But, failed to take the medication, knowing it was necessary for recovery, Dr. Nusheiwat noted.

He said that according to scientific records a heart transplant recipient could live up to 17 years after the operation. Medical advances may prolong this period.

As to kidney transplants, he added, the QAHI has performed more than 150 of them; all have proved successful.

Late last month a team of heart specialists from QAHI performed two heart transplant operations. The patients were reported to be doing well.

One of the patients, Kifah Sidki, 18, was the first woman to receive a new heart in Jordan. She received the heart of 25-year-old Mohammad Qatawneh.

Polls open at 7 a.m. for Saturday's by-election

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A by-election will be held in the northern Badia region Aug. 15 to choose a new member of the Lower House of Parliament to fill a seat which fell vacant with the death of Sheikh Saoud Al Qadi last month.

Mr. Faysal Abbadi, governor of Mafraq region, said that all arrangements have been made for the by-election in which 15,813 voters are eligible to cast

ballots. He said that 27 voting centres will be opened and that 12 committees have been set up to count the votes.

The voting will begin at 7 a.m. and last for 12 hours, according to Mr. Abbadi. There are eight candidates contesting the seat.

Sheikh Saoud Al Qadi, who was 76 when he died, had served as member of Parliament since 1954.

Youths return from summer of cultural exchange and fun

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of Jordanian children returned to Amman Sunday after participating in an international summer gathering of children held in East Germany.

The 10-member group from the Haya Arts Centre performed national songs and dances and distributed pamphlets and posters about Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites to the children from other countries.

The group also distributed

photos of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and token gifts and souvenirs.

The participation of the Jordanian group was within a programme of cultural cooperation between the two countries organised through the Haya Arts Centre and the Jordanian-East German Friendship Society.

Taking part in the 35-day gathering were thousands of children from all corners of the world.

Crown Prince to patronise youth camp opening

AMMAN (J.T.) — A youth camp will be opened for students in Ajloun area today under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The participants come from universities, community colleges and youth centres throughout the Kingdom, according to Mr. Fahd Qaqish, director of sports activities at Yarmouk University which is sponsoring the four-day event.

Mr. Qaqish said that the camp is designed to strengthen social and cultural relations among the participating youth and deepen their sense of national belonging.

The participants will hear lectures, take part in discussions and seminars on a variety of subjects pertaining to the current 1986-1990 five-year national development plan, Mr. Qaqish added.

He said Yarmouk University has prepared a programme of practical activities for the youth who.

Jordan barter wheat for phosphates with India

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will buy 50,000 tonnes of wheat from India this year; the payment will be made in the form of fertilisers, according to informed sources.

The sources could not provide the exact amount of the purchase but it is expected that India will supply the wheat at about \$100 per tonne. Jordan bought a similar quantity of grain from India in 1986 at \$108 per tonne delivered to Aqaba.

The latest deal has been entered into between the Ministry of Supply and India's Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), a government agency which handles imports of fertilisers into India.

India is the largest purchaser of Jordanian rock phosphates and phosphatic fertilisers. Jordanian exports to India amounted to JD 44 million in 1986.

Though the volume of Indian purchases from Jordan is expected to go up this year, the net revenue for the Kingdom will remain around the same figure as last year because of a decline of prices in the international fertiliser market, according to industry sources.

MMTC has been exerting efforts on behalf of various Indian companies to secure contracts in Jordan in return for part of its purchases from Jordan.

Last year, a JD 35 million road contract was awarded to an Indian private sector company, and 30 per cent of the contract value

will be paid in the form of phosphates. The project involves the building of a highway between Al Jafr and Al Azraq as part of a new road linking Aqaba and Iraq.

In addition, the Indian Railways Construction Corporation (IRCON) secured a \$5 million contract to build a railway workshop for the Aqaba Railway Corporation.

At present, MMTC is campaigning on behalf of Indian companies for contracts related to the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station. IRCON is the lowest bidder for the project's civil works, estimated at \$35 million.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), also a government-owned company, has submitted the lowest offer for the supply of boilers for the power station. The boiler deal is expected to amount to \$70 million.

The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), owner of the project, has been holding technical consultations with BHEL over the offer. The authority will announce the winners of the tenders by early October.

Reports have indicated that India is offering to increase substantially its purchases of Jordanian fertilisers and phosphates in return for the Kingdom increasing its imports of Indian products. The two governments, represented in a committee of senior officials, are continuing discussions on the possibilities, according to sources.

Rafsanjani: Iran wants to keep Hormuz open

(Continued from page 1)

Die Welt also quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying two West German hostages who were kidnapped in Beirut in January remained in Lebanon.

The Iranian leader said Tehran officials believed they had made contact with the kidnapers of West German businessmen Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, but he did not elaborate.

West German security sources have said the two were kidnapped by Hizbollah, a pro-Iranian group.

Asked by Die Welt about Tehran's influence on groups in Lebanon believed to be holding the two West German hostages, Mr. Rafsanjani replied:

"We have influence, and up to a certain point these people take notice of us."

Mr. Rafsanjani was also quoted as saying that an end to the Iran-Iraq war would not be possible without "punishment of the aggressor."

The term is usually used to refer to the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein which Iran contends started the war.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Tehran would be against autonomy for the Kurdish north of Iraq. "We are for the full sovereignty of Iraq... the state of Iraq should not be divided," he told Die Welt.

Iran is backing Kurdish guerrillas fighting the Baghdad government in pursuit of demands for autonomy.

Meanwhile, Tehran Radio said Sunday Western warships converging on the Gulf might be the forerunners of a United Nations fleet.

"This military mobilisation could be a precursor to an international fleet under the United Nations that would put pressure on Iran to compromise in the war," Tehran Radio said in a commentary monitored in Cyprus.

Keeping up bitter criticism of American, French and British naval operations, the radio said there would soon be 36 Western warships in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea. But it said they would be attacked if they confronted Iran.

"It is clear such a move by the West, especially after the martyrdom manoeuvres in the Persian Gulf, will not be easy," it said.

In four days of naval exercises codenamed Martyrdom last week, Revolutionary Guards reportedly carried out mock attacks on shipping by missiles, frogmen, mines, remote-control planes and explosives-packed boats.

"The probable martyrdom-seeking operations that Iranian forces will carry out against Western forces will convulse the region and will involve the West and Japan," the radio said.

"Looked at in the framework of superpower relations, it gives rise to dangerous probabilities."

The radio said it was unlikely that the Soviet Union and China would accept U.N. military and

economic sanctions against Iran.

Tehran has implicitly rejected a July 20 U.N. Security Council resolution ordering an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war. Baghdad accepted it on condition that Iran complied.

If the war continues in defiance of the mandatory resolution, the 15-member body is committed to consider further steps — including sanctions.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi told Tehran Radio that U.S. attempts to enrol Western help in sweeping mines from the Gulf showed that America was weak.

Shultz aide in Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Shamir about the nature and composition of the conference.

Haaretz said Mr. Hill would discuss with Mr. Shamir the possibility of a document of understanding to be signed by the United States and Israel before the beginning of the conference.

Mr. Hill's trip follows a visit to Israel last month by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid who told his hosts a unique chance for peace would be lost if they failed to accept an international conference. He urged it be arranged this year.

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Applicants should be able to attend all training sessions during the week Aug. 22-29 from 6-12 p.m., daily except Sunday from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Responsible supervision is provided plus remuneration.





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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Ghosts of tawjihi

A DECISION taken by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) on the subject of recognition of degrees from foreign universities has caused an outcry which is still very much alive in the local Arabic press. Columnists, educators and prominent public figures all attacked the decision as encroaching on personal freedom with devastating effects on the working prospects of the young generation.

The CHE had ruled that degrees obtained from foreign universities can be recognised and approved by the Equivalence Department at the Ministry of Higher Education only if their holders had obtained grades in the tawjihi examinations meeting the CHE's requirements. According to the requirements, students with at least 85 per cent average grades in tawjihi can study medicine, those with 80 per cent grades can study engineering and those with no less than 65 per cent can enrol for other specialisations here and abroad.

The controversy stems from the fact that the decision, according to educators, contradicts with the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution which stipulates that all citizens have the right to education. It is therefore clear that the CHE's ruling deprives the majority of young Jordanians from acquiring higher education, that is beyond the secondary school level, because of their tawjihi grades. If the CHE's decision is applied then at least 23,000 students who failed this year's tawjihi examinations will be discouraged from studying abroad. If by any chance some of these students venture to study at a recognised university abroad and obtains a degree with honours, they will not be granted the chance of ever returning home to serve their country since the results of their tawjihi examinations taken at the end of their secondary school years were not up to the CHE standards. It goes without saying that the CHE is considering the tawjihi examination as the litmus test which determines the future of thousands of students every year, regardless of the unfavourable school environment, textbooks, lack of skilled teachers and other negative factors which can contribute to the students' failure. The decision also rules out any consideration of degrees awarded by world-renowned universities to Jordanian students who happen to excel in their courses abroad after being hampered to display earlier ingenuity at Jordanian schools.

According to university sources in Jordan up to 7,000 tawjihi students would be admitted for the coming academic year, leaving the fate of 53,000 others undecided. Of course a limited number will seek higher education abroad, and some will join community colleges, but thousands will be joining an army of unskilled and unemployed citizens in the country.

We suggest that higher education be open to all. And since a very limited number of students are to be admitted to universities in Jordan, no restrictions should be placed on those trying to acquire education abroad.

In fact, allowing our students to enrol at foreign universities and higher institutions of learning is beneficial for the country as a whole. These students would be returning to Jordan, still a developing nation, with new skills, technology and higher knowledge which has already contributed to the prosperity of the industrialised world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Receding peace prospects

IT has become clear that the Iranian regime is now involved in preparations for launching a new act of aggression on Iraq. This means that the rulers in Tehran are not satisfied with rejecting the United Nations Security Council resolution on ending the Gulf conflict. They are determined to translate this rejection into the form of fierce battles that would further shed more blood and sap more resources. This situation calls for intensified efforts on the part of the U.N. secretary general to persuade Iran to call off its plans and to desist from committing further actions that would fuel the explosive situation. We call for U.N. efforts at a time when we truly realise that the Iraqi armed forces are quite capable of deterring the Iranians and also giving them new lessons, no less severe than those of the past years. But we are concerned with saving lives, and so we want the United Nations to interfere and to display its determination to carry out the Security Council resolution for ending the conflict. It is indeed time for the council to take measures that would force the Iranians to reconsider their plans and their conspiracies which are designed to minimise the prospect of ever establishing peace between the two sides. A new Iranian offensive is bound to make peace and stability in the embattled Gulf zone a very remote possibility.

Al Dustour: Setting Arab house in order

THERE has been enthusiastic welcome to a call for convening an Arab League council meeting to study the present situation in the Arab region. It is unreasonable for the Arab League to remain impasse in the face of the fast moving developments and events at different levels, specially after the United Nations Security Council issued a call for an end to the conflict in the Gulf and in view of the secretary general's plans to embark on mediation efforts for peace. It is also unreasonable for the Arab countries to remain passive as to the current plans by foreign powers to remove mines from the Gulf waters and to secure international navigation in the strategic waterway. These developments affect various Arab countries as much as they affect the Arab states in the Gulf region. Therefore, we view the Arab World's favourable response to a call for convening an Arab League Council meeting as a healthy phenomenon which has been lacking on the part of Arab countries, and joint action which the Arab Nation has been missing for a long time. A pan-Arab meeting to review the situation in the Gulf could serve as a prelude for mobilising all efforts to re-arrange the Arab home and put matters in their right perspective, conducive to helping Arab leaders to chart a strategy for a joint action.

Sawt Al Shaab: Action is long due

TUNISIA'S call for an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers and a favourable response on the part of all Arab countries to it represent a positive step towards formulating a joint Arab stand with regard to current efforts for holding an Arab summit meeting. An urgent meeting at the summit level should be seriously considered by the Arab countries in view of the current developments in the Gulf and in view of Iran's threats to its neighbours. The Arab states which have been watching their interests being compromised by the foreign powers in the Gulf ought to adopt a pan-Arab strategy vis-a-vis this situation so that they can deal with external threats. The absence of Arab League activities in the past had been encouraging the enemies of the Arab Nation to pursue their evil plans against Arab interests, and the lack of joint political and military moves on the part of the Arabs had cost them a great deal. Therefore, we view Tunisia's call for an urgent meeting by Arab foreign ministers as a serious move towards, helping Arab countries to undertake positive steps that can safeguard their own interests. Arab leaders ought to shoulder their responsibilities and move speedily ahead to save their nation from continued dangers.

Much ado about bugging

By Waleed Sadi

NOW THAT several months have passed since the "startling discovery" of large-scale bugging of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, one can now soberly and rationally reflect on the subject of bugging embassies and diplomatic missions without the excitement which ensued in the aftermath of the discovery of the Moscow eavesdropping.

It is not really shocking to hear of governments and their agents spying on one another using hi-technology or primal methods. Since immemorial governments and quasi-governmental agencies had engaged in espionage and counter-espionage against one another. To be sure, espionage and counter-espionage are accentuated in times of war or friction but continue to thrive in peace times as well. The only difference between "traditional" espionage and contemporary manifestations of it is the abundance of new technology which enables agents of governments to penetrate the most impenetrable places to eavesdrop on the most sensitive thoughts and intentions of friends and foes alike. Needless to say, capturing or having access to the secret and confidential thoughts and intentions of friendly and hostile governments would give the receiving country a head start in formulating its policies and executing its actions vis-a-vis the government which has fallen in the cobwebs of its espionage operations. That's why there is hardly a limit as to where governments are prepared to go to have access to secret communications of other governments with whom they have

important bilateral relations.

It goes without saying bugging embassies and residents of diplomatic personnel is illicit and unlawful under international law, in particular the Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities. The inviolability and sanctity of embassies and other diplomatic missions including the residences of their personnel who happen to enjoy diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities are well rooted and protected under relevant international law. It is enough to point out that penetrating diplomatic chanceries and other places enjoying diplomatic status would frustrate the spirit and letter of relevant conventions and international law. And in this context, any attempt to draw a distinction between/built-in electronic devices within foreign diplomatic places and compounds on the one hand and devices installed "outside" the diplomatic premises to eavesdrop on secret and confidential communications on the other would make a mockery of pertinent international law which accords diplomatic premises protection from unlawful "entry". Yet it is an accepted and acknowledged fact that both Washington and Moscow resort to satellites, naval means and radar systems to spy on one another. The practice of engaging in such espionage has grown so much lately that the world has begun to accept it and condone it as lawful and legitimate. It seems that the litmus paper in these contexts is the methodology resorted to rather than the ends achieved that separates the lawful from the

unlawful.

What is woefully absent in international law is a specific convention which could regulate spying activities and operations and serve as a guideline for all countries to observe and respect. One would recommend in this vein that a diplomatic conference be convened as soon as practical for the specific purpose of further elaborating existing conventions and international law on diplomatic privileges and immunities with a view to safeguard diplomatic premises from unlawful encroachments and to put in black and white language that would make bugging whether conducted from "inside" or "outside" a grave violation of international law. This is not to suggest that the elaboration and adoption of new and additional legislation would serve as a panacea to the existing problem of espionage worldwide. One has to be awfully naïve to believe that states would abide by international law, old or new, where their national security concerns are affected or threatened. Nevertheless, a beginning must be made and the articulation of

supplementary body of international law could be helpful and would serve as a foundation for future guidelines and actions. Otherwise the networks of espionage could develop much and become so intricate that no regulation would succeed in containing it. Now, therefore, is the time to take action to control it and apply the rein to it.



Malaysian politicians seek to defuse racial tension

By Kalimullah Hassan
Reuter

KUALA LUMPUR — Politicians from both communities are trying to stem growing tension between Malays and Chinese in Malaysia, the prosperous Southeast Asian nation once placed under emergency rule for two years after bloody race riots.

"It has become a racial conflict. We have to defuse it," said Cabinet Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also chairman of the ruling National Front coalition's influential youth wing.

The youth wing's executive council will hold a special meeting this month in a bid to settle disputes between the coalition's dominant member, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), and its Chinese partner, the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), he said.

The executive council is made up of the youth groups of the coalition's member parties. These groups exert considerable influence on government policy.

Malaysia still has vivid memories of the riots that exploded in 1969, killing more than 100 people in the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

The former British colony was placed under emergency rule for two years after the riots, which were attributed to Malay dissatisfaction over the distribution of wealth.

Malays make up more than half Malaysia's population of 16 million, with Chinese forming around one third and Indians and other ethnic groups the rest.

Wealth is concentrated in the hands of the Chinese.

A year after the riots, the government introduced its new economic policy, designed to give Malays a bigger share of national wealth.

Najib said the current war of words between the two communities began in September, 1986, when MCA Deputy President Datuk Lee Kim Sai cast doubts on the status of Malays as the indigenous inhabitants of Malaysia.

UMNO's youth wing as well as 46 Malay backbenchers in the 177-member parliament staged demonstrations to demand Lee's resignation.

Lee subsequently apologised and retracted his statement but sparked off another row earlier this year when he criticised the new economic policy.

Support for Lee from members of the MCA youth wing was countered by demands that he be sacked from the UMNO youth group.

Both youth groups also took leading roles in a dispute over aid to more than half a million Chinese people who lost their deposits when the government closed 24 savings cooperatives

amid allegations of fraud and mismanagement.

UMNO youth urged the government to refuse to bail out the depositors, who had invested some 1.5 billion ringgit (\$585 million) in the cooperatives, a traditional Chinese form of savings institution.

The MCA protested and in June the government agreed to a rescue plan that would enable the depositors to get their money back.

The MCA lodged fresh protests last month, however, when the prestigious University of Malaysia abolished subjects studied in the Chinese or Tamil languages and ordered all students to study in Malay.

The MCA saw this as a further erosion of Chinese rights.

Najib said MCA protests against economic policies and its questioning of Malays' status as the country's original settlers had angered the Malay community.

He added that the MCA had not questioned the new economic policy earlier because Malaysia was enjoying an economic boom.

"Now that there is less money to go around, the Chinese blame the NEP," he said.

The president of the MCA youth group, Datuk Yap Pian Hon, said this month's meeting

was the first time his party and UMNO youth had met specifically to discuss racial tension.

"It is about time for us to talk. We can't have Chinese and Malay extremists threatening peace and stability," he said.

Both Najib and Yap said that the differences between Malays and Chinese, although the most serious for several years, could be solved peacefully.

Yap attributed present tension to "local newspapers sensationalising our differences."

Both Najib and Yap told Reuters they had directed party members to stop making public statements on racial matters.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad, who heads UMNO, has also intervened to calm the atmosphere.

Last month he set up a "unity bureau" of high-level UMNO leaders and told reporters: "It is time we (UMNO) took an active role in forging racial unity."

On a visit to Britain in July, the first by a Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir said it was difficult to govern in a multi-racial country.

In a speech in London he said: "Perhaps in order to understand the problem you should try and imagine a Britain in which 50 per cent of the population are made up of Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Indians and they want to learn only their own language."

Experts say defence difficult against Iran's low-tech navy

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A mighty U.S. fleet in the Gulf could shoot down attacking aircraft and missiles with relative ease but could face an embarrassing threat from Iran's low-tech navy, military analysts say.

U.S. Defence Department and private experts told Reuters one of Iran's tiny glass-fibre or wooden-hulled speedboats on a suicide attack might defy radar and heat-seeking detection devices and hit a warship or a Kuwaiti tanker flying the U.S. flag.

"You start by saying it is extremely unlikely that the Revolutionary Guards would be stupid enough to try something like that because neither side wants shooting," said a senior U.S. navy official, who asked not to be identified.

"But this is also a fact: If they load up a small boat with explosives and come at you slowly, especially at night, it could be difficult to spot."

The problem, he and other experts said in interviews, is that a state-of-the-art navy is equipped with radar, missiles and computers to pick up homing devices and metal skins of aircraft and missiles.

But it would not be equipped to deal with fishing craft converted into attack boats.

In four days of Gulf war games, code-named "Martyrdom", last week Iran deployed frogmen, paratroopers, explosive-laden patrol boats and pilotless aircraft in mock attacks against ships.

Shortly after the war games ended, the second U.S. naval convoy to escort reflagged Kuwaiti tankers slipped through the Strait of Hormuz en route to Kuwait.

Revolutionary Guard commander Moshen Rezaei said that if attacked, Iran would mobilise thousands of high-speed launches against enemy ships.

U.S. defence experts say small boats packed with explosives and piloted by seamen prepared for martyrdom — like Japanese kamikaze pilots who sent their planes in death dives against U.S. battle fleets in World War II — were particularly difficult to combat.

The Phalanx gun does wonders against an incoming missile, but it isn't worth a tool against small boats," said John Pike, a military expert and spokesman for the Federation of American

Scientists.

Nine U.S. warships assigned to the Gulf carry the radar guided, computer operated 20-mm Phalanx guns which can fire more than 1,000 rounds a minute — a wall of bullets — at missiles and aircraft within a two-mile range.

But navy officials conceded the gun was not designed for use against boats and they said small craft would also be difficult to hit at longer range with shells from five-inch guns.

Retired Rear Admiral Gene la Rocque, director of the Centre for Defence Information in Washington, said the trajectory of a five-inch shell is not designed to fire at nearby targets.

"We are moving around in the Persian Gulf on the assumption that Iran will not attack because they fear retaliation," said la Rocque.

"But if they decide to do it, we may find out quickly that Americans are already dead before we can hit back."

Retired Admiral Julian Lake of Santa Clara, California, former head of the navy's electronic warfare command, said high temperatures and humidity made the Gulf a very difficult area to fight against small boats.

"The water is almost as warm as the air," he said.

The hulls of the boats and the people aboard are about as warm as the sea around them and it is extremely difficult to get an infrared (heat image) reading from detectors," he said.

Defence Department officials said a shimmering haze and a blanket of moist air which often hangs close to the surface of the Gulf make it difficult for powerful ships' binoculars known as big eyes to spot small objects at a distance.

"But I can tell you that there are people here who are as worried about small boats as mines," one U.S. official said.

Some defence officials said they feared several small boats armed with Soviet-made RPG-7 anti-tank weapons or loaded with explosives might mount a joint attack against one U.S. ship.

They said at least two Mark-3 Spectre class patrol boats being sent to the Gulf on the amphibious landing ship Raleigh could circle U.S. convoys and help watch for potential attack.

But the Raleigh is not expected to reach the Gulf until late this month.

Central American peace plan seen as one step on long road

By Angus Macswan
Reuter

GUATEMALA CITY — The Presidents of five Central American countries have agreed on steps to end their region's civil wars but the road to peace remains studded with obstacles.

Diplomats say an accord signed at the end of a two-day summit here depended on factors beyond the control of the parties to the agreement, the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Honduras.

The presidents set up a timetable from between 90 days for ceasefires to take effect to 150 days for another summit to review progress in translating the provisions of their accord into reality.

As in a long series of previous Central American peace meetings, no representatives of the insurgent groups fighting the governments of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala were involved in the talks.

Nor was the United States, which has armed, trained and financed right-wing guerrillas fighting for the overthrow of the ruling Sandinista National Li-

beration Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua.

The absence of major players in the conflicts of the region, diplomats said, raised immediate doubts over the implementation of ceasefire accords and calls for national reconciliation.

While Central American delegates to the meeting were close to euphoria after the accord was announced, diplomats who monitor regional peace initiatives cautioned against too much optimism. "There is a long, long way to go yet," one said.

One of the potential pitfalls was a provision which stipulated "the necessity to comply simultaneously with all aspects (of the accords) within the established time frames."

Central America's guerrillas have different backers and different motives and getting them all to observe a ceasefire would appear to require negotiating skills and flexibility of a kind which has not been evident in the region.

While anti-Sandinista guerrillas in Nicaragua depend almost entirely on U.S. support, rebel groups in El Salvador and Guatemala are considered self-sufficient to a considerable degree.



Thus, diplomats said, the key to ending the war in Nicaragua lay in Washington while no outside forces had similar leverage over rebels in El Salvador and Guatemala.

"I think the contras will have to accept a ceasefire," said a Latin American diplomat. "In El Salvador, I'm worried the guerrillas will block it."

Despite some \$1.5 million a day in U.S. military and economic aid to El Salvador, the Christian Democratic government there was not able to crush

guerrillas fighting under the umbrella of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

While the Central American agreement called for an end to outside assistance to guerrilla groups, it made no mention of aid to governments — an omission likely to irk Washington because it would allow the Sandinista army to receive more Soviet aid but would ban the U.S. from helping its rebel clients.

The presidents here ignored a peace proposal put forward by

President Reagan on the eve of their summit. The Reagan plan concentrated on Nicaragua, called for the immediate suspension of emergency law there and the establishment within 60 days of a timetable for free elections.

In contrast, the Guatemala declaration provided for incumbent presidents, including Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, to finish their terms.

One of the biggest obstacles in implementing the Guatemala plan appeared to be that the United States has viewed Central America as part of its confrontation with the Soviet Union, arguing that Nicaragua has been turned into a bridgehead for "communist revolution" in the Western Hemisphere.

No left-wing or right-wing rebel group fighting in the region immediately embraced the ceasefire call contained in the 14-page document and observers of the region said there still appeared to be many stumbling blocks to peace.

The United States, which backs the right-wing contra rebels trying to topple Nicaragua's Sandinista government, cautiously refrained from immediate com-

ment, saying: "We are anxiously awaiting details of this agreement."

However, House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright, who helped draw up a U.S. peace plan put forward by President Reagan this week, said Washington's response "has to be affirmative."

Nicaraguan rebel leaders here told a news conference that if the Sandinista government wanted a truce it would have to ask the contras for one at the bargaining table.

But Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official Alejandro Bendaña said on U.S. television Friday night that a ceasefire could be achieved only through direct negotiations with the United States, the backers of the contra rebels.

If the United States did not agree to direct talks, Bendaña said, "We have to become pessimistic about the possibilities of working out a final peace throughout Central America."

Announcing the accord, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said there was "a new will" for peace throughout Central America.

Waleed Sadi

Irani details part of the 'holy' link

Irani, George E., The Papacy and the Middle East: The Role of the Holy See in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1962-1984. (Notre Dame, 1986).

GEORGE Irani's book is a compact, readable account of an elusive and potentially important subject. Claiming to be "the first major attempt to examine the official role and attitude of the Catholic Church toward the contemporary Middle East conflict," The Papacy and the Middle East deals separately with Vatican relations in three areas: the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, the holy places and Jerusalem, and the Lebanese war.

Despite (or is it because of?) bewildering socio-economic change during the past quarter

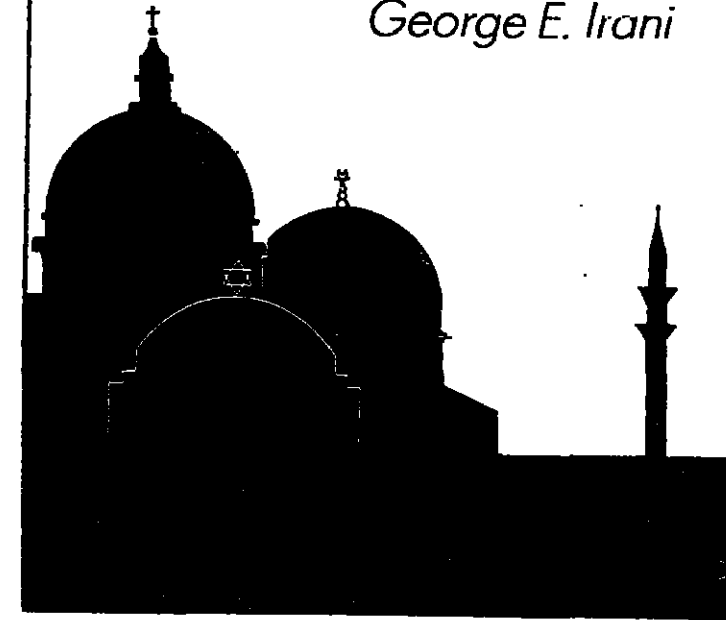
BOOK REVIEW

century, particularly in the Third World, the Catholic Church does not appear to be losing its influence on the international political and diplomatic stage. The policies of the peripatetic John Paul II, as well as his active predecessors Paul VI and John XXIII, have kept the Vatican in the headlines, particularly in the Levant. But a lot of what the Catholic Church has done in modern Lebanon and Palestine has an impact on people's lives. The fact that this book was written and published, albeit by a Levantine Christian and the press of a Roman Catholic university respectively, suggests that the Papacy may have a potential role in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But what is this relationship? And what is its significance? Irani is under no illusion as to the

The Papacy and the Middle East

The Role of the Holy See in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1962-1984
George E. Irani



Papacy's clout, as he explains in the book's introduction: "The Holy See as a transnational actor does not have significant industrial capabilities or a military presence to wield power and influence... In conflict situations, the Holy See tries to mediate be-

tween warring groups and utilizes the transnational network of the Church for two main purposes: (1) to provide humanitarian relief and (2) to request the help of external powers to stop bloodshed." Of course the Pope and his "divisions" of diplomats, bureaucrats and nominal or practicing native Roman Catholics try to do far more, and this is the rest of the iceberg submerged under Irani's smooth prose. The self-interest of the Catholic Church must be the primary aim of its members, headed by the Pope, and this fact does not really come out clearly in the book. Another tantalising question is pushed into the background by the author who quotes (in chapter one) various writers on the importance of the link between Italian economic and financial interests and Vatican foreign policy, and leaves the issues uninvestigated for the rest of the book.

Despite occasional minor errors and omissions, the book is worth reading, in part because of the light it sheds on the piousness of the Papacy in the endless ballet of Middle East diplomacy. The book claims to have "researched previously unexplored archival resources," some of them presumably in the Vatican. Will future scholars be allowed further peeks? The history of the Roman Catholic Church has not always been one of casual openness, and George Irani's scholarship and the story it tells, though not necessarily a step in the wrong direction, are in the Vatican tradition. The book is available in Amman at JD 6 from the Pontifical Mission (phone 637440).

— Rami Khouri

هكذا مت الامم



Elvis Presley ... the show goes on

Memphis gears up for Elvis memorial

By Peter Elsworth
Reuter

MEMPHIS — A fan from England and one from Missouri are among the first to arrive for the 10th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death, a ritual expected to draw tens of thousands of misty-eyed faithful.

"Don't you publish my name," said the shy admirer from England, in her 40s. "No-one at work knows where I am or even that I'm an Elvis fan."

Holding a carnation she planned to place on Presley's grave, the Manchester woman said she had seen him "in the flesh" in Las Vegas in 1976 and had since come to the Presley Mansion. Graceland, in 1978, 1983, 1985 and again in 1986 "for his 50th birthday."

She said she had saved all year for the 1987 pilgrimage.

Carl Sivia said he drove all the way from St. Louis, Montana, to be here for the 10th anniversary of Presley's death on August 16.

Sivia said he had grown up listening and dancing to Elvis songs.

"I'm not overly emotional about it," he added. "But I wanted to get down here before the crowds. You can't have a silent moment with all those people."

His son Cory, 12, was less impressed. Did he like Elvis? "Sorta," he said. What about the mansion, did he like that? "It's okay."

Over 500,000 people a year troop through the colonial mansion on Elvis Presley Boulevard. Next week, officials anticipate 50,000 will make the tour, with about 10,000 attending a 9 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. candlelight vigil on Aug. 15-16.

Presley was 42 when he died of heart failure on Aug. 16, 1977. He had long lost the sexy impudence of his early days in the 1950s and had become a semi-recluse.

The official line at Graceland, however, does not dwell on the seamy side of Elvis' life.

"He did drugs, but none of the drugs found on him were illegal," Graceland spokeswoman Meredith Phillips said.

Across the road from the mansion is a bustling complex of souvenir shops and ticket offices. Elvis songs blare from loudspeakers.

In groups of 20 leaving every few minutes, tourists are ferried through the famous musical gates and up to the mansion.

They troop through the main rooms, with their smoky mirror panels, white and gold trim, and

blue and yellow curtains. Off the living room stands Elvis' gold-leafed piano, insured for \$500,000.

They eye the three television sets in the den and the shag carpeting and oversized African/Hawaiian-style wooden furniture in the jungle room, Elvis' favourite nook.

Upstairs, Elvis' bedroom remains a sanctum, closed to view and unvisited even by Graceland employees. His aunt, Delta, lives in a suite of rooms in another part of the house.

Visitors then walk past his stable of cars, including a pink 1955 Cadillac, and into the trophy room, a museum of Presleyana including the sequined jump suits of his later years. Finally, they file slowly past his grave in the meditation garden.

It is in the trophy room, however, that the visitor is reminded of Elvis' achievements and the reason for his fame and the lingering loyalty of his fans. The so-called "Hall of Gold" is lined with his 120 gold and platinum records. One plaque shows off a stack of five gold singles representing the five million copies sold of "Don't Be Cruel."

Overall, one billion of his records have been sold, more than any other rock star.

Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1935 and first recorded his adaption of gospel music combined with rhythm and blues and country and western in the early 1950s.

His career took off, however, when he made a TV appearance in 1956. In the ensuing years, he starred in 31 films, which carried his image across the world, and received 14 Grammy nominations, winning three for gospel recordings.

A tour of the mansion costs \$7, to go through Elvis' customised bus is an extra dollar and through his customised planes another \$3.85.

There are also gift shops where Elvis mugs, shot glasses, guitar-shaped clocks and ashtrays and liquor decanters in the shape of Elvis, his head serving as a cork, are available.

Then there's the recording studio, where would-be Elvis impersonators are informed by sign: "You be the star, only \$9.95."

"We provide all the music, all the backup vocals and the text," explained Ramona Henley, The amateurs then get a couple of shots at making their own recording of an Elvis hit.

Randa Habib's

To have or not to

THE issue of whether one likes circles or not, wants them around or prefer to have them removed, is debatable. Some are attached to the site and the memories and beauty of the circles. Others claim that traffic circles are a nuisance for vehicle movement.

Anyhow that is not my subject today. What I am stunned, bewildered and appalled about is terrible ugliness of some of our existing circles. Take the Tla Al Ali Circle. You can't miss it; it is enormous. This circle, I imagine, was established there in order to give a touch of beauty to the intersection of roads. But beauty at what cost?

Irregular brownish stones surround the circle. An attempt to give it a rustic touch?

In the centre of the circle a big iron monument bearing the number 50 was erected on the occasion of the 50th birthday of His Majesty the King. For such a dear occasion, a much nicer monument was needed. Very few flowers are planted there and all you can see is the pitiful site of sand.

Finally, and God knows why, the circle includes electric generator.

Certainly, the generator was not installed there to add to the "beauty" of the circle. If anything, it gives a grotesque look to the site.

So, the whole issue of circles boils down to one thing: if we have to have circles let's have beautiful ones. If we could do without them, then let's settle for automatic traffic lights, which neither add to nor diminish the good appearance of road junctions.

China listens for a thumping good melon

It is high water melon season in China, and as Robert Thomson explains, that is a time for rejoicing. For the Chinese eat an incredible 28 melons each, on average, during the melon season. Although, for melon gourmets, there are complications...

PEKING — Each night this summer, millions of Chinese are gathered around television sets for a report that serves as basic a function as the weather forecast... the water melon wrap-up.

It is high-season for water melons, and the streets of Peking, the Chinese capital, are lined with water melon men thumping melons to prove to passers-by, who will consume nearly one melon a day and sometimes much more, that they are of the best quality.

The Peking municipal government estimates that the city's 9 million population will eat 250 million kilograms of water melons during the summer. Families watch the television report in the eager way that a stockholder scans the share lists of a financial newspaper in the West.

Chinese work units have begun to enter into the spirit of the season by providing workers with a "water melon allowance". If a work unit does not have the connections to obtain good melons on the cheap, it will give staff a cash subsidy.

One Peking newspaper sent its trucks deep into the countryside to provide workers with 25 water melons each, although the melons were sold by the farmers on the condition that the newspaper's staff collected the seeds and returned them to the farm.

The big news this season has been the "great train robbery", and the fate of Lao Guixing and Zhang Minghua, the masterminds of the water melon heist.

Several weeks ago, Lao and Zhang led 160 fruit vendors in an assault on a fully-laden train at Peking's Yongdingmen station.

The gang members, some of whom rode to the scene on pedicabs, stole 25 tonnes of water melons. But, a few days later, Lao and Zhang were caught, paraded on television with their heads shaved, and given life sentences for their crimes. The water melon season has gradually be-

come more of an event since China launched its economic reforms in late 1978, and allowed farmers to control crops.

Local farmers say bad weather has reduced the crop slightly this year, and prices are certain to rise from the 80 U.S. cents that it takes to buy a quality melon.

One melon man, Xiao Liu, who sells from the back of a bicycle trailer in the east of the city, claims to earn about \$700 a month, which is more than twice the average annual urban wage in China.

He explained the complex art of picking a good melon: When thumped, the ideal thick-skinned model will give off a dull thud and not too many vibrations.

Xiao Liu goes in for the hard sell. Showing the flair that China now encourages, he has painted on his melons the characters for "extra special quality". He also showed his skills with a knife in what Chinese call "killing a melon."

While Xiao Liu has done well out of economic reform, a group of garlic farmers from Cangshan, in Shandong province on the north coast, recently showed their displeasure with the way local officials were managing the reforms by storming the local government building armed with garlic.

The garlic crop in the region has been too successful and, according to the official China Legal News, the problem has been exacerbated by sloppy distribution by local officials, with the result that garlic prices have plunged.

An angry farmer and his wife rode to the government building in a cart full of garlic and told officials that they came bearing gifts.

The couple then began throwing garlic around the offices, and were soon joined by other irate farmers in what the Chinese press has dubbed "the Cangshan garlic incident" — Financial Times feature.

New direction in archaeology: Glimpses into forgotten lives

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia — It is a freshly painted three-storey office building, with an artist's studio and gallery on the ground floor, two dormers thrusting out from the attic, and plaques declaring it a historic landmark.

The plaques do not explain, however, why this building that housed the 19th-century operations of Franklin and Armfield Co. is a landmark.

From 1828 to 1836, Isaac Franklin and John Armfield operated the leading slave-trading firm in the south. Their headquarters, the building at 1315 Duke St. in this city down the Potomac River from Washington, and the yards and buildings around it, served as the temporary home of more than 10,000 slaves destined for shipment south.

Slavers made millions

Even after Franklin and Armfield became millionaires and sold out, the building housed two successor slave-trading firms. Not until the civil war began did slave-trading end at the site; the union army took it over for a military prison.

Not long ago, archaeologists would not have bothered excavating such a site. It would have seemed too commonplace, with little prospect of turning up valuable artifacts, and their interest in slaves would have been limited to those connected with a famous person, not the anonymous thousands who passed through Alexandria.

But, in a growing effort to learn in detail about a past society, archaeologists are focusing more and more on sites like the Alexandria slave pen. At a recent meeting of Middle Atlantic archaeologists, a morning was devoted to what was called "the historic archaeology of the forgotten."

A paper by Janice Armetel and Elizabeth Crowell on their excavations at the Alexandria slave pen was one of a half dozen presented at the session. Others dealt with tenant houses between 1770 and 1830, housing for mill and factory workers in 19th-century Maryland, and tenancy and class in pre-civil war Wilmington.

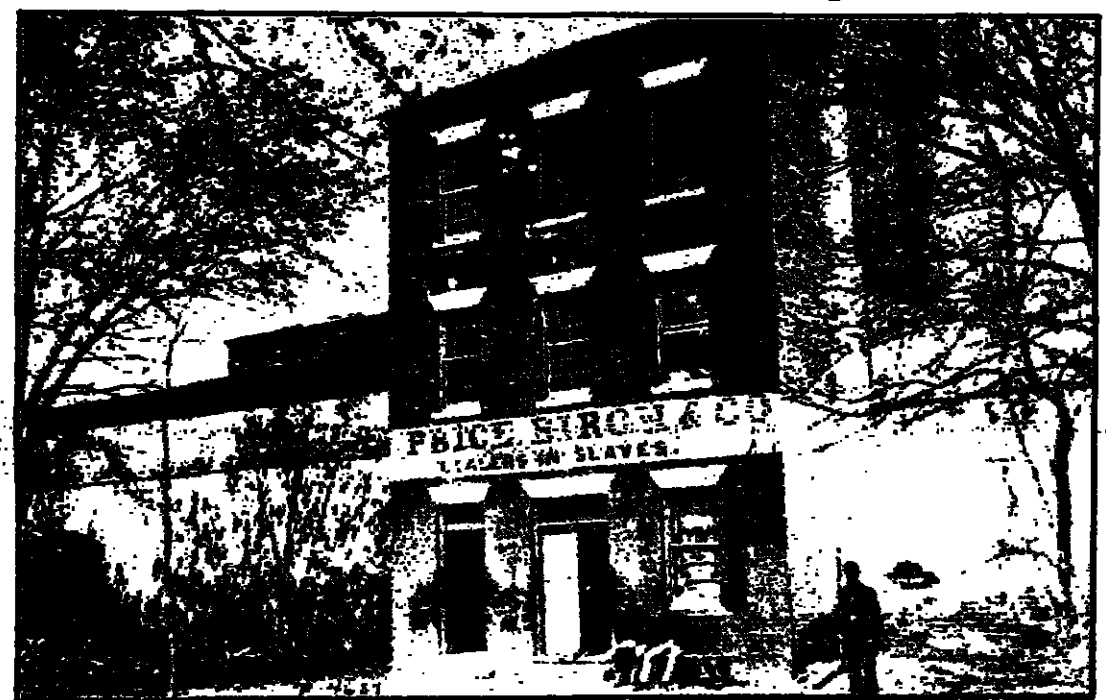
"Our goal is a complete ethnographic understanding of a site's history, to understand the lifeways of those who have been there," says Ellis C. Coleman of the University of Delaware, one of the session's organisers.

The difficulties of gaining such an understanding are numerous when it comes to studying tenant farmers, other poor whites, slaves, and even free blacks. Unlike the better-known elites, they left few written records, usually had few possessions that would turn up in an excavation, and left scant evidence of themselves.

Complaints or nothing

"A lot of times, these people were illiterate, and those who were literate didn't write about their lives, except to complain," says Crowell.

To make up for this paucity of documentation, historians and



The Alexandria slave pen was owned by a succession of traders before being turned into a military prison during the civil war, when the top photograph was taken. Archaeologists have been studying it to document the lives of the slaves for whom it was a temporary "home." Below, the same building today (National Geographic photo)



archaeologists must comb through city or state tax records, travellers' tales, and other such sources in order to find out enough about a site to know where to dig, and why.

In the case of the Alexandria slave pen, for example, one of the best sources of information was the record left by abolitionists who visited the site. Despite their distaste for what the firm was doing, the abolitionists admitted that the slaves there were well-fed and well-clothed, at least while Franklin and Armfield were in charge, and that the premises were clean.

The excavations by Armetel and Crowell, funded by the building's current owners, confirmed those accounts. They revealed whitewashed brick walls in the men's exercise yards and barred windows in the basement.

But they also confirmed that the slaves had virtually no possessions. The only object they found that may have belonged to a slave was a bone ring, similar to rings that have been found on a slave burial site in Virginia. On the

other hand, excavators found tin plates, probably furnished by the slave-trading firm for use by successive occupants.

If excavations at the Alexandria slave pen confirmed historic accounts, another excavation turned up cultural artifacts that surprised Armetel and Crowell and raised new questions.

That excavation, of a large Providence, Rhode Island, neighbourhood occupied throughout most of the 19th century by transients, lower-class free blacks, and newly arrived Irish and Portuguese immigrants, was undertaken to determine what impact track realignment and rebuilding of Amtrak facilities in the area would have.

Vicious neighbourhood

The neighbourhood, formerly known as Snowtown, was a centre of vice during much of the period, a time when Providence was industrialising. Local records are filled with complaints about unruly behaviour, illegal liquor sales, brothels, and gambling.

Yet, the excavations, which turned up thousands of artifacts — pieces of dishes and cups, bottles, buttons, pipes, eating utensils, dolls, marbles, dominoes, scissors, thimbles, coins, and hardware — revealed that Snowtown residents possessed items that suggested a higher socioeconomic status than records indicate. A study of animal bones showed that they ate better cuts of meat than expected.

Armetel and Crowell proposed two possible explanations. Perhaps the illicit activities were bringing in enough extra money to pay for higher-priced items. Or perhaps the residents chose to spend what money they had on items of conspicuous consumption.

The archaeologists' conclusion applies to all such digging into the lives of the forgotten, and provides the rationale for doing so: "Artificially, architecturally, and historically, the ... project contributed to the knowledge of residents of a lower social class neighbourhood, whose lifeways were heretofore little known."

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Jordanians reap seven medals at Special Olympics for Mentally Handicapped

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian athletes have reaped seven medals in thrilling performances at the 7th Summer Olympic Games for the Mentally Handicapped, recently held at Notre Dame University, Indiana State, the USA.

The nine-member team, who represented the Kingdom for the first time in the Special Olympics have shown outstanding skills and snatched two golds, two silvers and three bronze medals.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Sunday.

Petra said athlete Amer Ka'oush won a silver medal in the 100-metre race while Imad Fashah secured a bronze medal in

the shot-put competition. Awwad Sa'id won another bronze medal in the 100-metre race. Lana Mutwalli snatched a gold by winning the 50-metre race, Ra'ida Milhim secured another gold for the 100-metre race and one bronze and one silver went to Siham Qaqish for prevailing in the 50-metre and 100-metre races respectively.

Approximately 1,500,000 players, volunteers and amateurs have taken part in this year's events and Jordan's team was the first ever Arab team to participate in the Special Olympics.

Monaco, Bordeaux beaten but cling to French lead

PARIS (R) — Defending champions Bordeaux and this season's star team Monaco kept their places at the top of the French First Division Saturday night in spite of their first defeats of the season at the hands of Lens and Montpellier.

Monaco saw victory snatched from their grasp by First-Division newcomers Montpellier, who scored two goals in the last ten minutes of the first half.

Yugoslav international Nenad

Stoykovic and Thierry Laurey of Montpellier netted the goals in a match dominated throughout the first half by home team Montpellier, despite losing their forward Laurent Blanc who retired injured.

Monaco recouped their forces in the second half to put up a spirited fight with a goal from defender Remy Vogel but never recovered the initiative.

Bordeaux, victors in the First Division three times in the last

four years, also saw their 100 per cent record smashed by a disappointing 1-0 defeat away to Lens, until Saturday bottom of the league table.

The two leaders were joined at the top by Toulouse, who beat Niort 1-0 to bring their points score up to six.

At Marseille, where the home team played Toulon the final score was a 1-1 draw. Marseille's Jean-Pierre Papin won his club's goal on a penalty kick in the 44th minute, catching up with Toulon whose Laurent Paganelli snatched the first goal.

Nice lost 3-2 to St-Etienne in a shattering defeat on their home ground. Trailing 2-0 behind after just over a quarter of an hour, the Nice team never got the measure of the aggressive and highly-organised St-Etienne team.

Racing Club Paris are the only unbeaten club at the end of four matches but have yet to win.

East German athlete breaks own world discus record

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — East Germany's like Wyludda broke her own world junior discus record Saturday when she threw 70.58 metres at the European Junior Track and Field Championships.

The 18-year-old from Halle, who weighs 82 kilogramme (180 pounds), twice broke her old mark, first hauling the discus 69.88 metres and then becoming the first junior to go over the 70 metre mark.

It was her fifth world record in the event in the space of two months and her second gold medal at these championships. On Friday, she hurled the shot 19.45 metres, just 66 centimetres below her own world junior record in

that discipline.

"I believe next season I will throw (the discus) over 75 metres," Wyludda said after becoming the first athlete to retain a European junior title. "I have peaked for this championship and hope I am included for the Rome world championships when our team is chosen next week."

Her East German colleague, Astrid Kumbernuss, took the discus silver with 63.56 metres, with Anzhella Baraliuk of the Soviet Union third in 54.64 metres.

West Germany's Andreas Fischer of Hamburg switched from soccer to athletics as he won the 3,000 metres steeplechase in 8:54.83.



Intessar Othman

Intessar to represent Jordan in Rome

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian sprinter Intessar Othman is due to represent the Kingdom in the Track and Field World Championships, scheduled to be held in Rome from Aug. 29 to Sept. 6.

Another Jordanian athlete is expected to join Ms. Othman to the games but the player was not named as yet. Ms. Othman holds Jordan's record for the 100 metres, 200 metre and 400 metre races.

Eddery, riding his richest winner of the year so far for owner Saudi Arabian Prince Khalid Abdullah, said of the Blushing Groom colt after his narrow victory: "He is a very lazy horse and the blinkers worked wonders for him today."

It was the first group-one winner in Ireland for English trainer Jeremy Tree since he won the Irish Oaks back in 1975 with Juliette Marry.

Tree, delighted after the colt had battled his way to the front to land the 164,950 punt (\$234,100) prize, told reporters in the unsold enclosure at Phoenix Park:

Piquet wins Hungarian Grand Prix

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Nelson Piquet of Brazil, driving a Lotus-Honda, claimed his second straight Formula One victory Sunday, winning the Hungarian Grand Prix by nearly 38 seconds.

Piquet, who took the West German Grand Prix at the end of July, finished in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 26.793 seconds. The victory gave him 48 points in the world championship drivers' standings, extending his lead to seven points over compatriot

Ayrton Senna.

Senna was second Sunday in a Lotus-Honda, 37.727 seconds behind Piquet. France's Alain Prost of France was third.

Piquet's Williams-Honda teammate, Nigel Mansell of Britain, led until near the end of the 76-lap race. However in the 71st lap, Mansell's car slowed and stopped on the circuit, apparently out of gas. Mansell got out of the car and sat dejectedly on a fence as Piquet went on to his 19th career victory.

The race, the ninth Grand Prix of the season, was at the 4.014-kilometre (2.494-mile) Hungaroring Track, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Budapest.

Thierry Boutsen of Belgium finished fourth, followed by Ricardo Patrese of Italy and Derek Warwick of Britain.

About 140,000 people watched the race in the Hungarian countryside. It is the only Formula One race in an Eastern Bloc country.

Digamist narrowly wins Europe's richest race

DUBLIN (R) — The blinkered Digamist battled to a hard earned victory Sunday over fellow-British challenger Oakworth in the Phoenix Stakes, Europe's richest two-year-old race.

In a battle between the last two English champion jockeys, Irishman Pat Eddery emerged the winner by a neck from American Steve Cauthen on Oakworth.

Fairy Gold, ridden by the French champion jockey from Texas, Cash Asmussen, was three-quarters of length back in third place.

Eddery, riding his richest win-

ner of the year so far for owner Saudi Arabian Prince Khalid Abdullah, said of the Blushing Groom colt after his narrow victory: "He is a very lazy horse and the blinkers worked wonders for him today."

It was the first group-one winner in Ireland for English trainer Jeremy Tree since he won the Irish Oaks back in 1975 with Juliette Marry.

Tree, delighted after the colt had battled his way to the front to land the 164,950 punt (\$234,100) prize, told reporters in the unsold enclosure at Phoenix Park:

"We may go for the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket next."

The race was a bitter disappointment for the ultra-game Oakworth who had been runner-up in his last two races in France in the Prix Robert Papin and in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot.

But he could not match the gritty determination of Digamist, the 7-1 shot, who refused to concede defeat in a thrilling battle throughout the last furlong with 11/4 joint-favourite Oakworth.

The race was yet again a disappointment for Irish racing fans who have watched the first four classics of the season all go now won more than one million punts (\$1.5 million) in raids on Ireland's top racing prizes.

Digamist was afterwards quoted by bookmakers at 20/1 for next year's English 2,000 Guineas.

Loss-inflicted Brazil's soccer clubs plan separate tourney

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Representatives of Brazil's top soccer teams say they plan to pull out of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation and will hold a separate national championship.

The "Union Cup" to be held among the so-called "group of 13" would begin as late as Sep. 13, said Carlos Miguel Aida, a spokesman for the group. "Thirty-five days after we demand radical changes in soccer organization, the confederation has not shown any interest. We cannot wait any longer," he said. Confederation vice president Nabi Abi Chedid called the group's plans "a fantasy."

The confederation, Chedid said, has its own plans for a national tournament with more than 13 teams.

The group, including the top 13 teams in the confederation's national ranking, has pushed for a reduced national championship. Representatives of the teams say they are nearly broke because of too many money-losing games and too many teams in the First Division.

Marcio Braga, president of the Flamengo Club, told the O Globo daily newspaper that the top clubs cannot take more losses. "And now we would have our own tournament," he said of plans for the "Union Cup."

AIDS concerns prompt special precautions at Pan Am Games

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a concern for some foreign athletes attending the Pan American Games, causing many to take special precautions while visiting Indianapolis.

"We think that it is very easy to catch AIDS in the United States," Jose Soca Montero, Uruguayan judo coach, said Saturday.

"Most cases we have in Uruguay originated in the United States or in Brazil."

The AIDS virus attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to wide variety of infections and cancers. There is no known cure for the deadly disease.

Soca Montero said it would have been a good idea for the local organising committee to distribute information about AIDS to athletes.

"We thought that when we landed, we would be flooded with brochures on AIDS, but we were given nothing," Soca Montero said.

"I believe that during the University Games in Zagreb, a lot of information, and even condoms, were given to athletes," said Juan Jose Gorri, a member of the Uruguayan team.

A number of athletes interviewed by the Associated Press said they believe AIDS origin-

ated in the United States. Some displayed misconceptions about the way the disease is transmitted.

"Everyone talks about AIDS at the Pan American village," Mexican rower Juan Carlos Ortiz said.

"We know we have to take precautions because there are lots of people sharing the same quarters... you can catch it in the dining room, in the showers, a lot of places."

When told that scientists have determined it's practically impossible to catch AIDS through casual contact, Ortiz responded: "In fact, we don't know much about AIDS. It would have been better if we had been given some orientation."

"You run certain risks by coming to the United States," Ortiz said. He added, however, that he feels "athletes are healthier people and the possibilities of catching AIDS are less" than for the rest of society.



BREAK DANCE: Al Hussein striker Hattam moves to cut a pass to Adduflin player Shadfat during a match played Sunday within the Jordan Cup Championships. Al Hussein Club won the tie 5-4 on penalty kicks after both teams drew 2-2. On Sunday, Al Arabi Club and Al Karmel Club drew 1-1 in a similar qualifying match before Al Arabi beat Al Karmel 4-2 on penalty kicks. Both Al Hussein and Al Arabi clubs qualified for the final eight draw (Photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

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Filipino Muslim rebels kidnap 16 from university

Aquino orders crackdown on firearms

MARAWI CITY, Philippines (Agencies) — Members of three Muslim rebel groups are believed to have cooperated in kidnapping 16 people from the Mindanao State University campus, the regional police commander said Sunday.

Lt.-Col. Carlos Pena said it appeared that members of the Moro National Liberation Front, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the "Barracudas" were behind the kidnapping Friday of a professor, two staff teachers and 13 students from the university.

Col. Pena told the Associated Press the rebels had split into three groups and were holding the hostages in the towns of Lumbayanague, Lumbatan and Binigan, all about 32 kilometres south west of Marawi City in Lanao Del Sur province.

Col. Pena gave no details of the raid and did not say if the rebels had made any demands for release of the hostages.

Two Philippine constabulary companies and the army's 5th Infantry Battalion were sent to rescue the hostages, the colonel said.

Meanwhile in Manila, President Corazon Aquino Sunday ordered a crackdown on illegal firearms but rejected the use of emergency measures to curb growing violence in Philippine

cities. Angered by the murder a week ago of a senior cabinet minister, Mrs. Aquino told the army and police to spare no one in the fight against crime, even public officials.

"The more you catch, the more important the person, the more you will rise in my esteem," she said.

"The more you catch, the more you confiscate, the better," she said in a speech to soldiers and policemen at a suburban army camp.

She vowed sweeping measures to show that "democracy is not defenceless."

These measures included the setting up of more checkpoints in the capital and a crackdown on arms smugglers.

But she added: "There will be no constitutional shortcuts to public safety."

The military estimates there are 146,000 unregistered firearms in the Philippines, including those held by Communist guerrillas and

Muslim separatist rebels. The others belong to criminals and the private armies of warlord politicians.

Mrs. Aquino has been criticised for being weak in dealing with the violence which a senior military officer says has killed at least 600 soldiers and policemen so far this year.

The most prominent victim of the violence was local Government Minister Jaime Ferrer, killed by unidentified gunmen near his home last Sunday.

A group of ruling party congressmen called on Mrs. Aquino Saturday to suspend habeas corpus rights, which protect people from indiscriminate arrests, to check lawlessness.

Deposed President Ferdinand Marcos suspended the writ of habeas corpus in 1971 after alleged Communist rebels bombed an opposition rally in Manila.

Defence Secretary Rafael Ilete said suspending habeas corpus "is part of every government's plan of action but that has not been formally suggested."

"We do not believe that it should be done now," Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, Manila's defence command chief, told reporters. "The need is for more vigorous police action."

Paying more for 2 U.S. bases in Philippines better than moving — study

WASHINGTON (R) — The Philippines may soon steeply increase its price for allowing U.S. military forces to use bases there, but paying more still would be cheaper than moving, said a report by a former State Department official.

"However much more compensation the Philippines may seek in 1988, it is unlikely to come close to the costs of relocation" of the two vital U.S. bases

in the Philippines, the report by Evelyn Colbert said.

Ms. Colbert is a lecturer in South East Asian studies at Johns Hopkins University and former deputy assistance secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

The five-year review of the two countries' agreement on U.S. use of Clark Field Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station due next year will greatly influence the out-

come of what promises to be a stormy Philippines political debate over renewal or ending of the accord which it expires in 1991, said Ms. Colbert.

Her 20-page study titled "The United States and the Philippines bases," published by John Hopkins' Foreign Policy Institute, pointed out that President Corazon Aquino has left her options open, promising only to respect the bases agreement until 1991.

"I have my personal views but I'd rather keep them to myself. I've seen a lot of William Casey portrayed by a lot of different witnesses and I know there's very little in a documentary way to support much of what's been said," he said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mr. Webster refused to comment on any role that Mr. Casey may have played in the sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of the profits to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

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Mr. Webster said the CIA may be able to inform Congress of covert operations quicker than the 48 hours promised by President Reagan in a letter to the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

"We will try to get it there within 48 hours. Actually, we ought to be able to get it there in less time than that and we often do (already)," Mr. Webster said.

CIA chief pledges honest dealings with Congress

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — CIA Director William Webster has pledged to give Congress honest answers to questions about his agency's covert activities but said he would not always make full disclosures.

Mr. Webster, addressing the American Bar Association's annual meeting, said the recent congressional hearings on the Iran-contra affair have created public confusion about deception in intelligence gathering.

He said that, when engaging in covert operations, deception is often used to conceal the source of the activity.

"But in dealing with the Congress there is absolutely no excuse for deception," Mr. Webster told a session sponsored by the Institute of Judicial Administration.

Mr. Webster, who replaced the late William Casey as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), said there may be occasions when he will have to tell Congress he has an answer to a query but cannot give it.

"That is a lot different than trying to answer the question quite narrowly when I know what

the Congress really wants to hear from me and pretending they failed to ask the question accurately enough or giving them an answer only to the narrow question that they have asked," he said.

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U.S. to help implement Central American peace pact

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan says Washington would help implement a peace pact signed by five Central American leaders as consistent with the interests of the United States and the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Mr. Reagan, in a statement Saturday, said he welcomed the commitment to peace and democracy made by the Central American leaders who signed the pact Friday but warned much work was needed for it to succeed.

It was Mr. Reagan's first public comment since the pact was signed in Guatemala and it appeared to be less than an unequivocal statement of support.

The pact was signed by the leaders of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua in Guatemala City two days after Mr. Reagan unveiled his own peace plan to end the six-year war between the leftist Managua government and the U.S. backed contras.

"I welcome this commitment to peace and democracy by the five Central American presidents and I hope it will lead to peace in Central America and democracy in Nicaragua," Mr. Reagan's statement said.

"The agreement makes clear that there is much work to be done by the parties involved. The United States will be as helpful as possible, consistent with our interests and the interests of the Nicaraguan resistance who have already stated their readiness to take part in genuine negotiations for peace and democracy in Nicaragua," it said.

The statement said Washington would review the pact, which effectively puts Mr. Reagan's own proposal in Limbo, to find ways it can help in its implementation.

"The agreement emphasises reconciliation, democracy, and full respect for political and civil rights. We are encouraged by that emphasis," it said.

The 14-page accord called for a ceasefire in Nicaragua and El Salvador, also embroiled in a guerrilla war, within 90 days. It included a pledge that no country would use its territory to attack another, and called on all foreign governments to stop all support for insurgent forces.

That would ultimately mean an end to U.S. aid to the contras, whom Mr. Reagan has compared to America's founding fathers.

4 dead in Chilean earthquake

SANTIAGO (R) — Four people were killed and dozens injured when a strong earthquake shook northern Chile, flattening walls and unleashing a number of landslides, the semi-official news agency Orbe said.

A baby and an 11-year-old boy were crushed to death by collapsing walls in Arica, 2,000 kilometres north of the capital, where the tremor registered seven on the Mercalli scale of one to 12.

The epicentre of the quake was some 50 kilometres north east of Arica across the Peruvian border and parts of Bolivia also felt tremors, Orbe reported.

Police sources quoted by Orbe said that 41 people were injured in Arica with a similar number needing treatment, mainly for shock and bruises, in Iquique, 300 kilometres to the south.

1 killed, 4 injured in U.S. bar explosion

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — A man threw two bombs into a nightclub, killing one man and injuring four other people, authorities said.

One of the bombs failed to explode and a bomb squad removed the device from club Michael's in eastern Kansas City, said fire department spokesman Harold Knabe.

Witnesses said a man opened the front door of the bar and "threw in two objects, then just a second later one exploded," Mr. Knabe said.

About 30 people were in the bar when the bomb exploded, Mr. Knabe said.

"As firefighters moved in, the patrons and the injured were shouting there was another (bomb) on the floor," Mr. Knabe said. "When firefighters were getting the injured out and checking for fires, that's when they found the second device on the floor."

The bomb was taken to a police firing range to be dismantled and destroyed, he said.

Witnesses said a man tossed the bombs about 7 metres into the bar and then fled, Mr. Knabe said. Police said they had no suspect.

Few people survive Soviet train accident

MOSCOW (R) — Only a few passengers in the three rear coaches escaped death after two Soviet trains collided in a coal-mining district of southern Russia two days ago, a Soviet newspaper said Sunday.

Komsomolskaya Pravda gave no casualty toll for the accident in which the locomotive of a grain-laden freight train rammed a stationary passenger train bound from Moscow to Rostov-On-Don. Two rear coaches were destroyed and a third damaged.

"The three rear coaches of the Moscow-Rostov train suffered. Only a few people, by a miracle, survived in them," Komsomolskaya Pravda said.

Soviet passenger trains travelling at night usually consist of sleeper coaches which can accommodate 36 passengers and one or more train staff.

The collision, caused by a failure of the locomotive's brakes, occurred at 1:32 a.m. on Friday morning at Kamensk station, 900 kilometres south east of Moscow. The locomotive was travelling at 140 kilometre per hour when it hit the coaches, the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya said. The driver of the freight train, a 26-year-old war veteran wounded in Afghanistan, survived but had been in deep shock.

Soviet television said the freight driver decoupled the grain wagons when his brakes failed 30 seconds away from the passenger train.

The newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya said 4,000 tonnes of grain spilled from 52 derailed freight cars.

The newspaper Trud suggested the collision had caused a fire, saying a local resident who lent assistance had suffered severe burns.

Dutch mosque damaged in apparent arson attack

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A mosque belonging to a dissident Sunni Muslim faction here was damaged in an apparent arson attack, police said.

Nobody was injured, but at least 40,000 guilders (\$20,000) worth of damage was caused by the fire at the Mobarak Mosque, apparently set shortly before 5 a.m. (0500 GMT) Saturday, according to Hague police spokesman Rob Brons.

The mosque belongs to the Ahmadiyya Movement, a "moderate" Sunni Muslim group that has frequently come under attack from orthodox Sunni believers in Pakistan, Brons said.

He added police had not heard of the Hague Mosque being a target for attacks before.

Unknown attackers apparently entered the building by smashing a roadside toilet window and splashed a "combustible liquid" inside the mosque, Brons told the Associated Press.

They had left via another window at the rear end of the mosque, Brons said, adding that no claim of responsibility for the attack had been received.

Tamil rebel group alleges killing by Sri Lanka troops

COLOMBO (R) — Shops closed and people stayed indoors in Batticaloa Sunday in response to a protest call by a guerrilla group which accused Sri Lanka troops of killing two of its members.

Residents speaking by telephone from the eastern province town said the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students distributed pamphlets Saturday asking people to support their protest.

The group said the killings violated the peace accord signed by Sri Lanka and India aimed at ending the Tamil campaign for a separate state.

It said in a statement from the southern Indian city of Madras that two unarmed members were killed by troops last Tuesday at Poonagari in northern province.

Sri Lankan and Indian security authorities said they investigated the charge and found it was untrue.

Meanwhile the commander of India's peace-keeping troops in Sri Lanka said the surrender of weapons by Tamil rebels must be completed before Sri Lanka's parliament meets on Aug. 18.

Maj.-Gen. Harkirat Singh told Reuters in an interview on Friday that there were now about 6,000 Indian troops in northern and eastern Sri Lanka to oversee the Tamil-Sinhalese peace pact, and he did not foresee more arriving.

The peace accord signed last week by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lanka President Junius Jayewardene ended four years of ethnic clashes in which about 6,000 people were killed.

Gen. Singh admitted only a few arms had been turned in since the signing of the pact.

Poverty causes Vietnamese to leave China

OVERSEAS CHINESE FARM, CHINA (R) — Poverty and rumours that Hong Kong offered better opportunities for resettlement in the West have caused thousands of Vietnamese to leave their homes in China in the past two months.

Vietnamese who have been settled in China since 1979 and working on state farms near the southern city of Canton complained that low pay and poor living conditions had forced many of their compatriots to try to reach the British colony.

The flow of refugees into the British colony normally increases

"We break our back for 20 yuan (about \$5) a month and we live in pigsties. In Hong Kong at least we have a chance to go to America," said 50-year-old Kuan Xinhua.

Government officials and refugees said rumours of quick resettlement in the West were circulating in the 193 state farms in Guangdong province. One refugee said young men were leaving in groups of 30 and 40.

The flow of refugees into the British colony normally increases

Nagasaki appeals for end to nuclear threat

NAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — About 25,000 mourners and visitors observed a minute of silence at 11:02 a.m. (0202 GMT) Sunday to remember the instant when the world's second atomic bomb attack devastated this port city in western Japan.

Nagasaki marked the 42nd anniversary of its atomic bombing with a day of ceremonies and appeals for peace and an end to nuclear weapons.

The U.S. B-29 airplane that carried the plutonium-based bomb, nicknamed "fat man," flew to Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945 after clouds obscured its initial target, Kokura, a city to the north east.

Three days earlier, Hiroshima had been flattened by the world's first nuclear attack, in which an initial 70,000 to 140,000 people died.

In Nagasaki, clouds threw the bomber off course and the bomb fell to the north of the city's centre.

The explosion and subsequent fire storms and radiation killed as many as 70,000 and destroyed vast parts of the city.

On Aug. 15, 1945, Japan surrendered and World War II was over.

"The citizens of Nagasaki realised through this experience that the atomic bomb is capable of annihilating the human race, and ever since, we have appealed relentlessly for the abolition of nuclear weapons," Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motomura said in a speech that will be sent to the leaders of all countries in the

United Nations.

Mr. Motomura urged that the United States and the Soviet Union hold a summit before the end of this year, and that they "stand together firmly on the premise that peaceful coexistence is attainable between East and West, and that they make every possible effort to bring about nuclear disarmament."

Sunday began with memorial ceremonies held by Buddhist, Shinto and Christian priests at Nagasaki's Peace Park and at temples and churches throughout the city.

Mr. Motomura and two representatives of bereaved families added the names of 2,359 bomb victims who have died since last year, bringing the total to 75,167.

Afterwards, government representatives, students, and foreign atomic bomb survivors offered flowers to the victims, whose names are enshrined near the peace statue.

At exactly 11:02 a.m., the crowd fell silent as bells, sirens and whistles commemorated the fateful moment that changed Nagasaki forever.

The radiation released from the bomb had a delayed effect on many people who had appeared unharmed immediately after the attack.

Hideyuki Hayashi, 68, was about 600 metres away from the point where the bomb exploded. He emerged from a cave he had been digging unharmed, but later became ill from radiation sickness.

Typical symptoms of those who

were exposed to residual radiation included bleeding from the gums and intensities, baldness and lesions. Radiation also lowered their bodies' ability to heal and their resistance to infection.

Hayashi suffers from liver trouble which he says is related to the bomb.

As a group of Buddhist monks chanted and beat drums, a group from West Germany performed a dance in sacks painted with skeletons to protest the world's continued production of nuclear weapons.

On Saturday, Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry announced the results of studies completed during the past year that show radiation has an even more detrimental effect on the human body than had been thought.

"The effects of the atomic bombing continue even today to cause the survivors untold physical and mental torment," Motomura said.

The average age of survivors is now 65, and as they grow older, their families find it difficult to deal with their physical and mental problems, doctors at local hospitals said.

Physicians also have confirmed a strong link between radiation exposure and increased risk of breast, thyroid, stomach and skin cancer, they said.

The number of people in Nagasaki in the summer of 1945 is unknown. About 350,000 people in Japan hold certificates showing they were victims of the atomic bombings in Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

COLUMNS 7&8

U.S. army defector marries girlfriend

MOSCOW (R) — Wade Roberts, a former U.S. army private who defected to the Soviet Union in April, married his West German girlfriend Petra Neumann in the Central Asian city of Ashkhabad, TASS news agency reported. Roberts, 22, was granted political asylum by Soviet authorities after crossing into the country with Neumann. The American, who had been serving at a U.S. base in Giessen, West Germany, now works as a snake-catcher at a reptile laboratory in Ashkhabad, capital of Soviet Turkmenia. "We are, perhaps, the happiest people on earth today," TASS quoted Roberts as saying after the wedding. It said Neumann was studying fashion design after being favourably impressed by fashion in Turkmenia.

'AIDS unlikely to spread in China'

PEKING (R) — AIDS is unlikely to spread in China because homosexuality and casual sex are illegal and contrary to Chinese morality, an official magazine Sunday quoted Public Health Minister Chen Minzhang as saying. The Peking Review said three people had died in China of AIDS since 1985, an Argentinian, a Chinese-American and a Chinese haemophilia patient in the eastern province of Zhejiang, where three other haemophiliacs have contracted the disease and are in quarantine. It quoted Chen as saying relatives of the three were being checked for the disease and that 7,000 such tests had been conducted in China so far. Few foreigners have actually taken the test, despite a law passed last December that those who stay in China one year or more must have proof of a negative AIDS test, it said. "With the lax enforcement of the new law, experts warn that some Chinese youth who have irresponsible sex relations with foreigners may become infected with AIDS and cause an epidemic in China," it said. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) kills by destroying a victim's resistance to other diseases.

Investigator convicted of stealing

MOSCOW (AP) — When police investigators in Gorky began searching for the criminal who broke into a safe after their conference and stole thousands of rubles, they didn't have to look very far. An investigator identified only as Maksimov was found guilty of breaking into a senior investigator's safe and taking nearly 8,000 rubles (\$12,000) and two tape recorders, according to a report in the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya. It said he was sentenced to five years in a labour camp. The report quoted Maksimov, an investigator in the Volodarsky region of Gorky, as saying at his trial that he overheard at the conference that money and valuables were stored in the safe of a senior investigator named Nikolaev. It quoted him as saying he broke into the safe after having a few drinks. Other investigators found the thief in only a few hours, but the report did not say when the crime was committed or give other details.

Mass wedding held for paupers

JAKARTA (R) — Eighty impoverished Indonesian couples were formally married in a mass Islamic ceremony and given a beggar's wedding banquet. Five thousand people, including ambassadors from Islamic countries and government officials, attended the banquet at the Jakarta Convention Hall. The brides, dressed in blue or pink traditional Islamic wedding outfits, and the grooms, decked out in sarongs and black brimless caps, looked suitably nonplussed at all the pomp, circumstance and attention. Most of them had lived as scavengers, prostitutes and vagrants before undergoing rehabilitation by Islamic social organisations in the Indonesian capital, a city of eight million people. The mass marriage ceremony took place before the return home of the first batch of 57,000 Indonesian haj pilgrims to Mecca, usually a festive occasion, and coincided with a nationwide plunge into fun and games leading up to next week's celebration of Independence Day.

Police recapture Italian crime boss

GRADO, Italy (R) — A Italian crime boss who boasted how he fooled police into letting him escape was recaptured after 20 days on the run. Paramilitary police said Renato Vallanzasca, 38, was arrested on the outskirts of the northern town of Grado after he was spotted driving a rented car. He was armed with a pistol but did not have time to open fire, they said. Vallanzasca, a convicted murderer who describes himself as an escape artist, has been Italy's most wanted man since slipping through the porthole of a ferry in the port of Genoa while being moved to a maximum security prison in Sardinia. He later telephoned a Milan Radio station and boasted how he had persuaded his five-man paramilitary police escort to leave him alone in what was meant to be their cabin instead of locking him up in a cell on board.

Plane makes two emergency landings

LONDON (AP) — Engine trouble forced a Trans World Airline (TWA) jetliner destined for Boston to return to London's Heathrow Airport twice Friday and make emergency landings, an airline spokesman said. The Tristar aircraft with 250 passengers on board left Heathrow at 11:41 a.m. (1141 GMT) but returned an hour later because of vibrations in the tail engine, said the spokesman, speaking anonymously. TWA engineers tested the engine and the plane took off again at 3:56 p.m. (1546 GMT), only to return for the second time 90 minutes later, the spokesman said. Fire engines and ambulances stood by the runway as a precaution during both emergency landings. "The pilot decided to return on both occasions purely as a precaution as his instruments were registering vibration from the No. 2 engine," the TWA spokesman said.

Ghana sacks 90 policemen

ABIDJAN (R) — Ninety police officers have been dismissed for misconduct during recent promotion exams, Accra Radio, monitored in Abidjan, has reported. It quoted an official police statement as saying they were found guilty of misbehaviour and engaging in disorderly acts. The statement said that a few policemen tried last month to disrupt by force the conduct of examinations in the capital Accra. But the situation was brought under control, it said without elaborating.

Velazquez canvases found behind cupboard

TAURIANOVA, Italy (R) — Three stolen canvases painted by 17th century Spanish artist Diego Velazquez have been discovered hidden behind a cupboard in the home of an Italian photographer, police have said. The most important of the three works, a painting of St. Luke the Evangelist, is valued at about 1.5 billion lire (\$1.1 million), they said. The other paintings represent St. Matthew and St. Mark. The three works were stolen from a village church in north east Sicily six years ago, they said. Police said the photographer, who lived in Taurianova in the far south of Italy, had been arrested and charged with receiving stolen goods.

Spaniards offer bone marrow to singer

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Dozens of Spaniards have offered their bone marrow to help save the life of top opera singer Jose Carreras, reported to be suffering from leukemia. One would-be donor, a woman from Seville, called Spanish National Radio saying she did not know much about classical music but it would be a great loss for Spain if Carreras died. A spokeswoman for the state radio told Reuters about 30 people had made similar calls. Newspapers this week quoted medical sources as saying Carreras, who was admitted to a Barcelona Hospital three weeks ago, has leukemia and will need a bone marrow transplant, possibly in the United States. The hospital has said only that Carreras, 41, has a blood disease and is responding well to treatment.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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SAYING ONE'S HONOR

Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ 6 4 2
♥ A K 7 6
♦ J 2
♣ 8 7 5
WEST
♠ 5 3
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K 10 8
♣ A Q J 4 3
EAST
♠ 10 8 7
♥ J 6 3
♦ 9 8 6 4 3
♣ K 10 2
SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9
♥ 8 4 2
♦ A Q 7 5
♣ 8 6

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♠

There is no magic about finesse. However, it is foolhardy to take a finesse if you know it has no chance of winning.